



Tuesday May 28 1996

Abu Dhabi D 50, Albania 22, Andorra FF 10, Australia AS 23, Austria 25, Belgium BF 60, Bulgaria BG 20, Canada CA 12, Czech Republic KC 41, Denmark DN 15, Finland FI 11, France FF 10, Germany GM 50, Greece G 20, Hong Kong HK 52, Hungary H 20, Iceland IS 10, India IN 20, Ireland IR 10, Italy I 20, Japan JP 20, Korea KR 12, Kuwait KD 10, Latvia LV 10, Lithuania LT 10, Luxembourg LX 10, Macedonia MK 10, Malta M 10, Netherlands NL 10, Norway NK 15, Oman O 20, Pakistan P 10, Portugal P 20, Romania RO 10, Russia RS 20, Saudi Arabia SA 10, Slovakia SK 10, Slovenia SI 10, Spain S 20, Sweden SW 10, Switzerland SF 2, Taiwan TD 10, Thailand TH 10, Turkey TL 10, USA US 20, Zimbabwe ZW 10

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,564

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The truth about total allergy syndrome

Sickness of the century

Health section, G2 pages 7/9

Labour has the policies, spin doctors confuse them

Shoot the messenger

Roy Hattersley, this section page 9

Education

Debut of the national numeracy centres

G2 pages 10/11



Arms and the man... An Orthodox Jew begging for alms for a religious group and an Israeli soldier go their separate ways in Jerusalem yesterday as Israel prepares to vote in an historic general election tomorrow. Report, page 7

UK slips in world league

Sarah Ryle and Michael White

JOHN Major's all-night government last night sustained another pre-election body blow when an exhaustive study revealed that Britain has been overtaken by Chile and Finland as 17 years of Thatcherite economic medicine fails to stop the slide down the global competitiveness league table. The United Kingdom fell from 18th to 19th place this year on the International scorecard, behind four other members of the Group of Seven major industrial nations — the United States, Japan, Germany and Canada. Seven years ago, Britain held 11th place in the league, according to the International Institute for Management Development's new World Competitiveness Yearbook.

1995	1996
US	US
Singapore	Singapore
Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Japan	Japan
Switzerland	Denmark
Germany	Norway
Denmark	Netherlands
Netherlands	Luxembourg
New Zealand	Switzerland
Norway	Germany
Austria	New Zealand
Sweden	Canada
Canada	Chile
Taiwan	Sweden
UK	Finland
Australia	Austria
Luxembourg	Belgium
Finland	Taiwan
France	UK
Chile	France



stitute says. Overall, China rose from 31st place in 1995 to 26th, while Taiwan slipped from 14th to 18th. Russia was last (46th), while Latin America's star economy, Chile, came 13th.

Milk fears create new food safety crisis

Michael White Political Editor

THE Government was last night enmeshed in another escalating food safety crisis after insisting there was no cause for alarm over powdered baby milk — and therefore no need to identify brands thought to contain potentially harmful chemicals. Against the background of the running battle over beef, it was not a formula designed to quell concern. Consumer groups and opposition MPs demanded more information. The row arises from research suggesting damage to human fertility and even cancers could arise from phthalates in some milks. This group of chemicals is common in plastic packaging, though at levels well below European Union safety standards. The Government's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeremy Mettler, issued a statement saying: "The Department of Health has seen the papers and there is no cause for alarm. Mothers should continue to use the infant formula that they have been feeding their babies."

'Mothers will find this frightening. They have a right to know the facts, so that they can choose milk that is safe'

— Dr John Chisholm of BMA's GPs committee

normal sense of that word for babies, for their parents and for the general public." He refused to identify brands found to be vulnerable in the research. "If there was a risk, we would name them... this is not a risk situation. It is undesirable. We are dealing with it. There is no need to name the brand." His insistence that the information on which media reports are based was published in his department's food safety bulletin two months ago did not reassure critics. Labour and Liberal Democrat spokesmen argued that the scare again raised the need for an independent food standards agency out of the Ministry of Agriculture's (MAFF) producer-dominated reach. Labour farms spokesman Gavin Strang said: "There is no justification for this secrecy. Why should we first learn about this in a Sunday newspaper? And, as for refusing now to name the brands at risk, that is utterly indefensible."

'This is not a risk situation. It is undesirable. We are dealing with it. There is no need to name the brand'

— Tim Boswell, Agriculture Minister

ing indication that they have still not learned the lesson of the beef scare." John Chisholm, deputy chairman of the British Medical Association GPs committee, said: "Mothers will find this very frightening. They have a right to know the facts, so that they can choose milk that is safe." There are four main manufacturers, Cow & Gate, Nestlé, Farley and Milupa, though not all make powdered milk for the UK market and some may also be involved in "own brand" products for the big supermarkets — which yesterday rushed to insist their brands were safe. A Sainsbury spokesman said: "We conducted tests into this 18 months ago and have complete confidence in our product." Boots called for more information and cautioned against identifying brands. Plastic pearl, page 4

Yeltsin agrees ceasefire with Chechen rebels

Propaganda coup boosts Russian president's election campaign

David Hearst in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN last night pulled off the biggest stunt of his presidential election campaign, by signing a ceasefire deal with the Chechen rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. A day of high drama, which started with the bizarre spectacle of Mr Yandarbiyev and his armed bodyguards being taken on a presidential plane to Moscow, ended with a triumphant declaration. "We have resolved the key problem of peace in Chechnya. This is an historic day, an historic moment," President Yeltsin declared after two hours of talks.

The deal, signed by Mr Yandarbiyev and the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, commits both sides to "end military activity" in Chechnya from midnight on June 1. Two previous ceasefire declarations in the 18 months of fighting have failed to stop a war which has cost more than 40,000 lives and humiliated the Russian army. But this could well be the decisive moment of Mr Yeltsin's campaign — finally calling a halt to the most unpopular act of his presidency, the sending of Russian troops into Chechnya. Yesterday's deal provides for an exchange of prisoners within two weeks. Few other details were released, which



Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev (second from left) at yesterday's ceasefire talks

statement welcoming the initiative. The limited terms of the deal leave open the future status of the breakaway republic and the question of who leads it — the rebels or the present Moscow-backed government of Doku Zavgayev, who is a bitter rival of Mr Yandarbiyev. Mr Zavgayev attended yesterday's talks. The rebels, who had in the past refused to meet him, agreed to view him as a member of the Russian delegation. Mr Yandarbiyev, a fervent Chechen separatist, ruled out talks on the Chechen claim to independence by saying: "We don't have a problem of status. We have a problem of settling mutual relations." The Russian military remained distrustful to the end. The defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, de-

nied splits with Mr Yeltsin and said: "There is nobody who can formulate the position better than our own president who, as saboteurs, murderers and professional mercenaries, must be incapacitated." But one "handit" was yesterday accorded red carpet treatment by the Russian president, who received Mr Yandarbiyev and his delegation of five in the Kremlin banquet hall. After the deal, the delegation, most of them still wearing camouflage jackets, though having left their weapons at the airport, were due to be taken to a secret KGB residence in Moscow. However, Chechen rivalries mean there is a high risk of the deal falling apart in the months to come. Three useful mothers, page 7

Inside

Britain The brother of the alleged Unabomber has told of his agonising decision to turn him in to the US authorities to stop more deaths. **2**

World News Albanian opposition parties have called on supporters to take to the streets after claims of intimidation during Sunday's election. **7**

Finance A left-of-centre think tank has come out in support of European Monetary Union which it says will help to keep interest rates low. **11**

Sport Leicester City secured their return to the Premiership by beating Crystal Palace in the last seconds of the play-off final. **16**

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
G2
Crossword 15; Weather 16;
Radio 16; TV 16



XERYUS ROUGE
POUR HOMME



GIVENCHY

Sketch

New PM stands in a revolving door



Suzanne Goldenberg

His opening parliamentary address was unmistakably a sign that even he believed he was destined to return to the opposition benches: "Prime minister," began Atal Bihari Vajpayee... except that Mr Vajpayee is supposed to be the prime minister.

At least until today, when his 13-day-old government of Hindu nationalists faces a confidence vote in India's parliament.

Many new MPs still have not figured out where to sit in the majestic semi-circular Lok Sabha, or parliament — a confusion that will probably worsen after today's all-change. Sworn enemies glared at each other at close quarters as the confidence debate got under way.

Phoolan Devi, the Bandit Queen who achieved notoriety for the murder of a couple of dozen of her oppressors, stared wide-eyed at the lawlessness around her. Which was a change from last week's ostentatious when the novice MP nodded off to sleep.

Mr Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party MPs, three with the saffron robes and matted hair of the Hindu holyman, a Hindu nun from the erotic sculpture town of Khajuraho, and 10 with orange scarves in obedience to the party's hard-line Hindu nationalism, squirmed in discomfort at their leader's slip.

Mr Vajpayee struggled on, reminiscing about the days of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, the anniversary of whose death was observed yesterday. "I used to sit on the opposite side," he recalled.

"Don't worry, you'll be back there soon," came the riposte.

Mr Vajpayee fought back, accusing the Congress Party, which lost this month's election, and the United Front alliance of regional and leftwing parties, of ganging up on his

minority government. For the last fortnight, MPs from all parties have been virtual prisoners at government guest houses in New Delhi, closely chaperoned by party whips to ensure they do not succumb to the blandishments of cash and ministerial portfolios dangled in front of them by the enemy camp.

"That is not our style, to horse-trade, and to buy and sell MPs," Mr Vajpayee said.

"Ask your parliamentary affairs minister. He will tell you," the opposition responded.

Mr Vajpayee insisted voters had wanted a clear-out of the old and corrupt Congress government, and he tried to convince his accusers that his party was not prejudiced against Muslims and low-caste Hindus.

But in the end, it was not enough. "Democracy is a game of numbers, and the numbers were not on our side. We tried," he said with practiced humility.

Not that he found any sympathy. A Congress leader cruelly brought up Mr Vajpayee's single status. "You gave up your virginity for a marriage party in which the bride was missing," he yelled.

The proceedings were televised live, and though they competed with the India vs England cricket, many Delhiites were glued to their screens.

Mr Vajpayee's enemies were determined to shoo his government out as quickly as possible. "Let's finish it today," they crowed. Still, there was time for the ritual thumping of desks and belittling of outraged MPs.

A newly inducted MP from Bihar with 38 criminal charges against him told hecklers: "I'll break your teeth before I see you form the government."

The Speaker declared: "I'm on my legs, I'm on my legs."

And Mamata Bannerjee, a Congress MP from West Bengal, sustained a steady, though unintelligible, howl throughout several hours of debate.

Mr Vajpayee soldiered on until evening, but the battle was lost. He sat down so abruptly at the end, it took a minute for MPs to realise it was over.

And by lunchtime today it probably will be.

Review

Parlez-vous...? Not ruddy likely

Anne Karpf

Brussels Goes Bananas BBC Radio 4

WHAT, pray, is a mockumentary? Not, it seems, just a documentary that mocks (as every second one today does). No, this is where the presenter assumes some role — often an anorak or nerdy nebbish — and goes out to interview real people "in character", as Mike Leigh would say.

With its blending of the true and the contrived, it also seems to be the genre of the moment. John Shuttleworth, Chris Morris (whatever happened to him?), Mark Thomas have all done it. The 1990s had their factious; the post-post-modern 1990s have their mockumentaries.

In this oddball but funny example, Tom Lenaerts and Michel de Vlioger, a pair of amusing Belgian improvisational actors, came to London to tease out the natives' attitudes to the EU. With their exaggerated Belgianness and camp ruses, they sound like a Belgian equivalent of Eurotrash's Jean-Paul Gaultier and Antoine de Caunes — wearing a (metaphorical) skirt, and cooking a Euro snook at the English.

Gathering interviews on the street, they did succeed in eliciting British reactions to Europe — most of the people they spoke to obligingly brought out their Sounding Off About Europe stick — but even more conclusively demonstrated British humourlessness.

First, the Belgians floated the idea that the EU was insist-

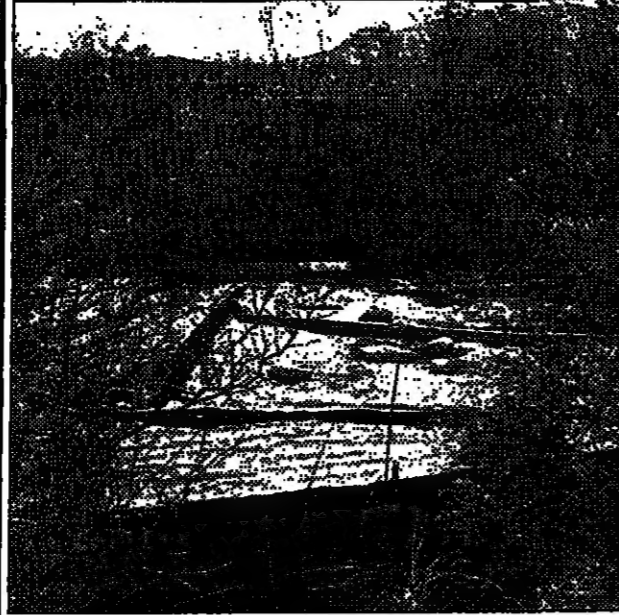
ing on straight bananas because they were tastier. To most of their interviewees, this just proved the silliness of Brussels (rather than their own silliness in believing it).

Next, the Belgians proposed a Euro Penfriend Programme in which citizens of one European country would get monetary reward for corresponding at least a dozen times with the citizens of another. And finally they suggested a three-month compulsory exchange, whereby an English barber should be forced to make a swap with a French barber, an English butcher with a German, and so on.

Lenaerts and de Vlioger have been doing fictional documentaries for Belgian TV for some years now, impersonating civic officials and interacting with ordinary punters to satirise bureaucracy. Here they also managed pitifully to copy the British way with foreign languages. One woman could recall a French phrase, "Parlez-vous français?", but then translated it as "Pleased to meet you". Naturally Tom (or was it Michel?) thanked her and bid her farewell with "Parlez-vous français?"

In between, one of the duo made phone calls to his own putative British penpal, Margery who (we could deduce from his replies) fielded him an excruciating succession of far-fetched rebuffs. We shared, empathetically. In his abatement, much in the manner of the Robert de Niro character in *The King of Comedy*.

Meanwhile, though Brussels Goes Bananas was rarely hysterical, it did leave one's face fairly creased in smiles. With the joke on us.



ONLY one person can claim to have been close to Theodore Kaczynski, the man sitting in a cell in Helena, Montana, suspected of being the Unabomber who carried out nearly 18 years of parcel bombings across America in which three people were killed and 23 injured.

His younger brother, David, travelled the roads and camped in the bush with the reclusive and always friendless sibling he idolised. In the early 1980s, David Kaczynski seemed to be leaning towards the hermit's life that claimed his mathematician brother. He retreated to the remote Christmas Mountains of West Texas, where he bought 30 acres. For years, he worked summers in the Chicago area and spent



'Don't kill my brother'

April 3, has not been charged with any of the Unabomber crimes. He is being held in a Montana jail on federal charges of possessing explosive components. But based on the evidence discovered in his mountain cabin, police said, federal prosecutors are preparing to charge him with the 18-year campaign of parcel bombings, which killed three people and injured 23.

David said he had been clearer than anyone to his brother until Ted angrily spurned him in 1983 for deciding to get married.

David, a social worker aged 46 from Schenectady, New York, said he had been infuenced by Ted's uncompromising intellect. His love of wild places, his compassion for children, even his startling moments of kindness.

He detailed the life history of his 54-year-old brother and shed new light on Ted's personality, mental problems,

and troubled relationships, on the evolution of his ideas, and even on the sources of money that allowed him to travel around the country.

David said part of his brother's mind remained obscure even to him, partly because of Ted's extremely private nature.

David traced his own role in Ted's life — from admiring younger brother to companion in the wilderness, and eventually, bewildered victim of his brother's inexplicable rages and rejection.

He said he had paid little attention to the Unabomber case until last year and had not suspected that his brother might be the long-sought serial bomber until the New York Times and the Washington Post financed the publication of the bomber's manifesto in the Washington Post last September.

At first, David had ill-defined inklings: the places to which the Unabomber had been linked seemed vaguely familiar.

His wife Linda, who had never met Ted, was the first to mention the possibility, initially as a joke.

Then in the summer of 1995, while on holiday in Paris, Linda read a surge of news reports about the Unabomber. Her questions about Ted grew more serious, and she told David her suspicions.

The manifesto was published on September 19, but David put off reading it because of visits to relatives.

Eventually, in early October, David and Linda went to a library at Union College, in Schenectady, where Linda teaches philosophy, where they found and read the introductory section of the manuscript on the Internet. "But Linda, she was looking at my face when I was reading those six pages," David said. "My jaw dropped."

How did he feel? "Chills. I think some anger. I was prepared to read the manifesto and be able to dismiss any

possibility that it would be Ted, but it continued to sound enough like him that I was really upset."

Later, when he read the full text of the manifesto, David's dread deepened. He wrote to Ted. "I told him that I regretted very much the strain in our relationship and said I would like to come visit him."

But Ted "wrote back that the very suggestion made him feel awful and angry."

David agonised over what to do next. "One concern was if, God forbid, I were in a position to prevent more lives from being lost, I couldn't do otherwise. The other concern was for Ted himself, his psychological wellbeing."

David and Linda approached Susan Swanson, an old friend from Chicago who was a private investigator. "We went to her first asking

for information, how she would go about handling a potential case," David said.

Then David and Linda found old letters by Ted that seemed to match the prose style of the Unabomber "certain kinds of phrases" with epithets mixed in. Ted seemed to fit the FBI's profile of the suspect as a loner and an angry academic.

But in some ways, Ted and the Unabomber seemed mismatched. The Unabomber derided leftists — a subject that David had never known to be important to Ted. David knew his brother had taken bus trips, but he seemed to dislike travel and could not easily afford the long bus rides to the cities in Northern California from which some of the bombs were posted.

But in January, after comparing the manifesto to sam-

ples of Ted's writing, analysts concluded there was a significant chance he was the author. David felt "compelled" to contact the authorities.

Within days, the ring began to close. Undercover agents stalked out Ted's cabin. Others interviewed bus drivers and postal workers to determine whether Ted's travels had coincided with the postmarks on the parcel bombs.

David visited his mother and confessed his suspicions. "The first thing she did was to hug me for what I'd been going through." Then she voiced disbelief: "It couldn't be Ted." Then she said, "You could be right." David said her first concern had been for him: "I believe she knew me well enough. I did not do this lightly." — New York Times.

One in 10 in homeless hostels has degree

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

A DEGREE has proved a passport to cardboard city for hundreds of graduates, according to a survey published yesterday by London's biggest organisation for the homeless.

The St Mungo Association found that one in 10 of its adult residents in hostels, care homes and halfway houses had a degree.

A further 10 per cent were educated to A level standard and a further 24 per cent had O levels or GCSEs.

Most had slept rough and less than a quarter of these graduates had paid jobs. More than half of homeless graduates still cited office or profes-

sional work rather than manual work as their main occupation.

St Mungo's, which houses nearly 1,000 people a night in 50 hostels and houses, believes its residents are representative of the homeless population.

More than 30,000 people in England as a whole are classified as homeless by local authorities.

"Almost half of those surveyed had an academic qualification, refuting the image of homeless people being ill-educated," said Charles Fraser, the association's director.

"The fact that such a high proportion of those with qualifications are unemployed shows just how difficult it is for homeless people to get jobs even when they have

Go digital with Flare. Plus first 3 months line rental Free.

MOTOROLA GSM MODEL FLARE

- Up to 17 hours standby-time
- Up to 105 mins talk-time
- 100 name/number memory
- Complete with battery and rapid travel charger
- Weight 215g

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Connection	£35.25 (€31 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.50 (€15 + VAT)
Peak Rate	35.25p per min (€31p + VAT)
Off Peak Rate	11.75p per min (€10p + VAT)

Prepayments paid into an 800-2000 line to be used for calls to 0900 numbers and 0177 to 0179 per minute. Low cost national numbers are charged at 10p per minute. See your local Vodafone shop for details of our special offer. Offer valid for 3 months only. See www.vodafone.co.uk for details.

FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 3 MONTHS

Cellphones Direct

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREephone 0500 000 888

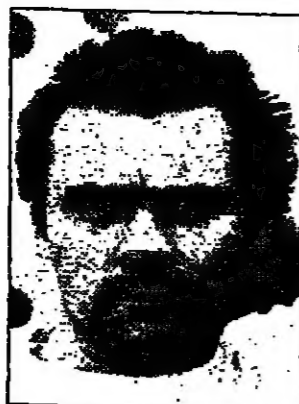
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND CHECK THE 402. EXPERT WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT SWIFT CREDIT CARDS.

Offer subject to status and a standard service contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd 195 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 2995222.

To advertise in The Guardian please call 0171 239 9735

Handwritten note: 0171 239 9735



'I won't turn down a commission because I don't like the art. I never say, "That's a crap idea". I'm not like a high judge of what will be or won't be art because it's not really my place'

— Michael Smith on the craft behind art



Michael Smith, the man who produced the sculptures, at the Gagosian gallery in New York, where Damien Hirst (above left) is holding an exhibition

PHOTOGRAPH ELLEN BINDER

Designer's art keeps the more famous afloat

Ian Katz

MICHAEL SMITH has produced some of the most talked about pieces of British modern art. His work has been shown in the Tate in London, the Pompidou in Paris, and a host of galleries around the world. It is unlikely you will have heard of him, however. Mr Smith only makes the stuff, you see. Describing himself as a "designer and fabricator", the 35-year-old Londoner is the unsung craftsman behind artists including Damien Hirst, Mona Hatoum and Marcus Taylor. They bring him their ideas; he turns them into art.

York exhibition, Mr Smith built the 12 glass and steel tanks that house two sliced-up cows in the sculpture Some Comfort Gained from the Acceptance of Inherent Lives in Everything. He also built a contraption which makes two halves of a pig move to and fro like a bacon slicer. "The pig's moving slower now," he observes from his vantage point between a bovine neck and a tank full of greyish intestines. "We had problems with the motor." In the case of the pig sculpture, he explains, Hirst's brief was simple but the logistics were nightmarish. Each tank containing half a pig weighed 2½ tons and the speed of movement had to be regulated to avoid creating waves in the formaldehyde.

He has worked with Hirst for six years, producing the vitrines for most of his animal sculptures as well as other works by the Turner prizewinner such as his medicine cabinets and the mechanisms for his recent enthusiasm, spin paintings. He has also made stainless steel refrigerators for Taylor, metallic beds for Hatoum and parts of works for the painters Gary Hume and Ian Davenport. He sees nothing odd in the idea of artists farming out the manufacture of their works. "During the Renaissance, people have had other people make their work for them in one way or another. Henry Moore didn't cast all those bronze sculptures. Rodin didn't cast The Gates of Hell. Reynolds

didn't paint all his own paintings." Though he is himself a trained artist, Mr Smith insists he does not consider his role in designing and building sculptures a form of art. "What I'm doing is solving problems of design and problems of aesthetics within a set of parameters, and that's like architecture." Brought up on a Suffolk farm, Mr Smith enjoyed making things from an early age. After leaving school he worked in California, designing irrigation systems for orange groves for five years, before enrolling for a fine art degree at the Camberwell College of Art in London. After leaving art school, he had some success with his own work — "small ob-

jects to do with identifying things by their function" — even winning a prestigious New Contemporaries sculpture award. Four years ago, however, he decided to concentrate on his growing sideline of producing sculptures for other artists. "I wanted to do something that was ultimately more sustainable. I was more interested in making a living than making art." These days he runs a 6,000 square foot workshop in south-east London employing up to six people. He has produced work for at least 50 artists, along the way amassing an eclectic body of expertise on subjects from fluid dynamics to electronics. Artists prefer using him to general purpose crafts-

men, he says, "because I don't pass judgment on what they do". He added: "General metal or wood fabricators are going to say: 'What do you want to do that for?'" Though he believes that the works he constructs "definitely have a print on them", he insists he does not resent the fact that he receives little or no public credit for his work. Only occasionally, he says, does he have to suppress the artist inside him. He would not turn down a commission because he does not like the art. "I never say 'That's a crap idea'. I'm not like a high judge of what will be or won't be art because it's not really my place." He insists he doesn't make "lots of money" but

is coy about how much he charges. Critics of conceptual art are quick to use the costliness of its production to attack it, he says. After the Hirst exhibition is dismantled this month, he will help to reassemble his works for their new owners, he says, but he does not consider himself under any obligation to maintain them. "They don't come with a 6,000 mile service or anything like that." His next big project, still to be finalised, is a 15ft glass corridor for Marcus Taylor. It will protrude from a derelict London building. First, though, he must build someone a kitchen. "It's quite nice to make something that people are going to use as opposed to just see."

Toy gun in 'rage' attack

Gary Younge

A MAN was held up with a toy gun after a row at a busy intersection near Cambridge in the latest outbreak of road rage. The gun was held to the man's head and he was verbally threatened as his wife looked on. He was allowed to drive away, terrified by the incident, which took place only a week after the road rage killing of Stephen Cameron at Swanley, Kent. The man, who has not been named, was travelling with his wife when a Ford Sierra, carrying four people, drove towards them the wrong way along a road junction slip-road at Milton, Cambridgeshire, police said yesterday. "The woman sounded the horn as a warning and stopped the car," a police spokesman said. "Her husband got out to speak with the driver, who opened his door and produced something that looked like a handgun. He put it to the head of the man, and said something to him."

The couple drove to their home in St Neots and phoned police, said the spokesman. Later a car was stopped by Essex police on the M11, where the toy was found. Four people were taken into custody, police said. Two women were later released, and two men, aged 24 and 17, were detained and taken to a Cambridge police station for questioning.

Meanwhile, Kent police, who yesterday renewed their appeals for anyone shielding the killer of Stephen Cameron to come forward, drafted in extra detectives to deal with hundreds of calls from the public offering information. Detective Superintendent John Grace, leading the investigation, said that "quite a fight" had broken out between Mr Cameron, aged 21, and his attacker, who could have been visibly bruised in some way. "From the witnesses' descriptions of this, it is possible that the offender may well have some minor injury, such as bruising," he added. Police believe that if the man was injured his family and friends may have noticed. The murder squad, based at Dartford, are continuing the task of tracing almost 17,500 L-registered Land Rover Discovery vehicles, as well as sifting through dozens of names of possible suspects.

Redwood turns up heat on beef

'Renegotiation of relations with Europe welcome and necessary'

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Redwood last night turned up the pressure on Mr Major's Cabinet not to retreat on its insistence that Britain must get a deal to resolve the beef crisis before ministers drop their policy of non-co-operation with the European Union. The former Tory leadership challenger's latest intervention today in organised means of increasing the rate at which up to a million older cattle are slaughtered in the next 12 months in order to convince consumers across the EU that BSE will be eradicated from British herds. They will concentrate on creating extra cold storage capacity, in converted grain stores, to enable more cattle than the current maximum of 20-25,000 a week to be killed and kept until the over-stretched rendering industry can dispose of them.

Mr Redwood concentrated on the politics, not the logistics. "Farmers and people in the meat business would expect a timetable for the remaining threat to their jobs and businesses to be lifted before the Government resumes normal co-operation with Europe," he said during a tour of the West Country. Like many Euro-sceptics Mr Redwood sees the beef crisis as an opportunity to restore the EU to the free trade common market it originally was and thereby find an election-winning theme. This is an analysis which enrages pro-European Tory MPs like George Walsby, who this week threatened to resign the whip if the row gets out of hand. Yesterday Mr Redwood stirred the pot when he urged ministers to make good their promise to table proposals on fishing, beef, the powers of the European Court, subsidiarity — all sensitive "federalist" issues. "This amounts

to a renegotiation of our relations with Europe. It is both welcome and necessary." Rightwing and tabloid suspicions that, despite recent sabre-rattling, the Cabinet still hopes to strike a reasonable deal with Europe were rekindled yesterday by Roger Freeman, the junior cabinet minister heading the drive to get the beef cull running smoothly. "On Radio 4's World at One, he confirmed that ministers want an early end to the ban on British beef byproduct exports — probably on June 4 — but do not expect a firm date for finally ending the crisis. "We have said we want a framework. We don't want a detailed timetable that inevitably by a certain date certain things must happen." Both the EU Commission President, Jacques Santer, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made similar remarks on Sunday, though the Foreign Secretary also spoke of "putting into place an agreed strategy which will provide for the lifting of the rest of the ban and the question of timetable obviously will be part of these discussions."

Ironically, Mr Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is the first British minister to attend EU negotiations since the non-co-operation move was announced. The situation does not amount to a ministerial split at this stage. Mr Redwood's use of the word timetable, as distinct from the Government's preference for framework, reflects the hardliners' belief that the fault lay in Brussels, not in the mishandling of the beef crisis until John Major set up two new cabinet committees — one chaired by himself, one by Mr Freeman — last week. Mr Freeman's inter-departmental committee will today get to grips with the bottlenecks in the nine rendering plants and 42 abattoirs designated for the scheme. The rendering plants can only cope with 25,000 carcasses a week, hence the need for more cold storage. Ministers are anxious that the EU realises the scale of what is being done to cull BSE-tainted herds and older cattle. In return they want gradual reacceptance of herds with no history of BSE and of grass-fed herds.

World study shows Britain falling behind its competitors

continued from page 1 in the management category this year. Coincidentally, in a separate report published today, the think-tank Demos argued that the image of the 1980s entrepreneur "young, white, male, swashbuckling and using macho management styles", is outdated and potentially dangerous. The authors called for a new approach to management based on employee motiva-

tion as the key to long-term productivity. Last night's survey was the first to be published solely by the Institute after seven years when it was produced jointly with the influential Geneva-based World Economic Forum. The latest findings provoked an immediate row between the two former partners over the validity of the institute's research. Under the institute's new calculations, based on 225 criteria in-


stead of 378, Britain did better last year, at 15th, than the joint survey recorded. The joint World Competitiveness Report had placed the UK 18th in 1995. A spokeswoman for the forum, whose competitiveness report is out on Thursday, said: "Our report is substantially different," suggesting that the UK might not do as badly in its scoring this year, and is likely to modestly improve its ranking.

The institute warned that the diverse performance of European Union member states could influence monetary union, as it reported that smaller nations were beginning to outshine bigger countries like Germany — about which it is also gloomy. "This trend will put severe constraints on the Maastricht objectives to achieve unity, or will call for more flexible goals," Professor Garelli predicted.

A new breed of anti-booze lawyer has evolved to take advantage of the crackdown. "I sue bars," explains Alfred Sennedella III. "If you serve someone to the point of intoxication and beyond, if you put someone on the road that does injury, I will take your insurance protection, your liquor licence, your establishment, your savings, your money, your home."

Jonathan Freedland G2 cover story

Phone lines are open 24 hours Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm Saturday. Calls may be recorded and monitored. Issued by Midland Bank plc.




Meet Alistair.

Alistair saved himself £10 a month by changing to Midland home insurance.

He did it by calling DIRECT 0800 277 377

Like you, Alistair saw an advert in the paper claiming that Midland could lower his household insurance. Alistair's got some quite expensive furniture and his insurance premiums had been fairly hefty, so he felt that any saving would be welcome. He rang us on 0800 277 377, was given a free quotation, double-checked the policy document (which is available on request) and was pleasantly surprised. Maybe you would be, too.



MIDLAND
The Listening Bank
Member HSBC Group

with Flare 3 months trial Free.

LIMITED OFFER £4.99

ones

0500 000 800

Opening another can of worms

The levels of the phthalates found in some brands of baby milk formula are slightly above the Tolerable Daily Intake. The TDI is fixed at one hundredth of the lowest level at which the chemical is thought to be potentially harmful.

Breast versus bottle	
Breast milk	Bottled milk
Nature's choice, with colostrum (which precedes the real milk) giving a unique mixture of proteins, minerals, sugars and antibodies.	Something anyone can feed the baby.
Genetically tailored for each baby and easy for them to digest.	A guarantee of the baby's health independent of the mother.
A food which needs no preparation, heating or sterilisation.	Manufacture in precise quantities.
But it can be painful or embarrassing to supply.	Best of all, it's free.
Affected in quantity and possibly quality by stress, illness and mother's diet.	Toxicity: too much, or an allergic reaction, can harm the baby.
A food for babies and others to supply.	A constant supply of formula, though, is a good thing.
	A source of energy and vitamins, and a safe effective carrier of antibodies in babies.

Baby milk formula
Typical ingredients: lactose, skimmed milk powder, vegetable oils, soya lecithin, potassium bicarbonate, leucine, ferrous sulphate, zinc sulphate, niacin, pantothenic acid, copper sulphate, thiamin, riboflavin, beta-carotene, manganese sulphate, folic acid, potassium iodide, biotin, vitamins C, E, A, B, K and D.

Phthalates
Clear, oily liquids used to soften plastics, they are now very widespread in the environment. They have been found to shrink the testes, lower the sperm count and disrupt the reproductive systems of laboratory rats.



A crèche co-ordinator bottle-feeding a baby... but he could be giving the child toxins banned by the Japanese 20 years ago PHOTOGRAPH: ULRICH PHELPS

The 5 million ton plastic peril in food

Tim Radford reports on the unknown effects of phthalates, whose toxic properties have been worrying environmentalists for about 10 years

In 1989 a scientist pointed out that there was a little problem with a label that said "environmentally friendly" on vegetables for sale. The label had been plasticised with a class of chemical called a phthalate to make it stick to the plastic film that protected them.

Phthalates and similar chemicals have been around for as long as polyvinylchloride (PVC) which is rigid unless treated with something to make it plastic, and about half of all the PVC on the planet has been plasticised with a phthalate. John Emsley, author of *The Consumer's Good Chemical Guide*, says a plasticiser can make up to half the weight of a plastic bag or washing up bowl.

This, he says "has sometimes proved a problem. When it is in contact with fatty foods, such as certain types of cheese, the plasticiser can migrate from the plastic film to the product."

Phthalates are clear oily liquids which carry pigments and catalysts and which also give flexibility to cellulose acetate and other plastics. They exist in certain kinds of bleaches, and in all sorts of domestic objects — carpet

edgings, vinyl floorings, paint, hose pipes, margarine tubs, food wrappers, polypropylene pot plants and so on. The world output of phthalates is reckoned to be 5 million tons a year.

Phthalates have been worrying environmentalists for about 10 years: vapours from di-ethyl phthalate have been found to be toxic to clover, aster, tobacco, broad beans, roses and alfalfa.

Japanese chemical companies banned certain chemicals such as di-butyl phthalate 20 years ago, and used the apparently less problematic di-ethyl-hexyl phthalate instead. This is the one used for making PVC bags for storing blood for transfusions, and for medical catheters.

When fed in large quantities, this phthalate caused cancer in mice, but most scientists believe this doesn't reveal much about the risk to humans. The maximum acceptable daily intake for humans has been set in Europe at 25 milligrams per kilogram.

In recent years phthalates have been linked with another threat, to fertility. They "mimic" the effect of natural plant oestrogens and have



Breast feeding... But there is a conflict between the natural way and working life PHOTOGRAPH: CLAIRE WRIGHT

Breast may be best, but problems await mothers who prefer the natural method — and only a fifth are still using it after six months. Martin Wainwright reports

WITH remarkable timing, the bottled milk scare has come at the end of National Breast-Feeding Awareness Week, and its headlines have given a dramatic if unsought fillip to the campaign.

"We thought of trying the slogan Expressing Milk — Come out of the Water Closet," says Christine Gowdrige, director of the Maternity Alliance. "All the evidence suggests that illogical and outdated maternity-leave arrangements are keeping many mothers away from the best and safest source of baby milk — the breast."

The natural system faces a constant struggle against modern work practices. The most recent government survey, conducted four years ago, found that problems with going back to work were the major reason for women turning to the bottle.

"Going back to work is a very difficult time for a mother anyway," said Mrs Gowdrige, whose group called on the Government

yesterday to extend maternity leave while the phthalate scare continues. "You are missing your baby and you may well be suffering discomfort with your system tuned in to regular feeds."

The fear of leakage, or constant visits to the Ladies to express milk, affects most breast-feeding mothers, whose leave ends at 14 weeks under revised regulations introduced two years ago. The reform extended statutory time off as a right to all working women, but fell short of the natural weaning cycle which gradually reduces the amount of breast milk.

"The employment department, which came up with the 14 weeks, is clearly at odds with the health department, which sets four months as the earliest time to wean babies off milk," said Mrs Gowdrige.

"When you consider that many women start their leave before they have the baby, it's no wonder they are deciding not to breast-feed, knowing that they will have to stop before the time for weaning has come. "A working woman can

British girl may be fifth victim in Majorca meningitis scare

Sue Quinn

A BRITISH girl, aged six, was in intensive care in Majorca last night, a possible fifth victim in the meningitis scare which has hit the holiday island.

Doctors said the girl, who has not been named, may only have a cold but that she had been admitted to hospital in Palma for observation.

Michaela Leyland, aged five, from Merseyside, remains in a serious but stable condition in the same

hospital after falling ill in a hotel in the southern resort of Magaluf. Doctors said her condition had improved slightly.

Medical authorities and tour operators have been trying to allay fears of a meningitis epidemic since the death last Monday of Christopher Richards, aged 13, from Midleton-on-Sea, West Sussex. Two days later a German girl aged 11 staying at the same apartment complex on the island's north coast died.

Thomas O'Neill, aged three, from Leeds, who was diag-

nosed as suffering from the same illness in Magaluf, was released from hospital after responding to treatment.

A health official said that the six-year-old had been admitted to hospital as a precaution after she became ill while staying with her parents at Cala Millor. Tests would be carried out over the next few days. He believed the illness had been brought to Majorca from Britain.

"Our health authorities are becoming increasingly convinced that that is the case. What happens is that, when a

child already has the germ dormant in the body, it can strike after sudden exercise like swimming and playing, exposure to intense sun and irregular meals."

He denied reports that there had been an exodus of tourists. "There is no factor to suggest there is any danger in Majorca."

However, hundreds of holidaymakers have asked to change their hotels since news of the first victim became known, and at least 60 others are believed to have cancelled their holiday plans.

Burger boxes and a clockwork radio vie for TV design award votes

David Pallister

WHAT have a plastic can-crusher, Channel 4 HQ, and a cardboard burger carton got in common? They are, in the opinion of three panels of design experts, some of the best of British.

Fifteen nominations shortlisted for BBC's annual design awards — in the categories of products, graphics and architecture — will be shown in three programmes starting next week and presented by Janet Street-Porter.

Viewers will have an opportunity to vote for their favourites by phone, at 250 booths around the country or at a mobile exhibition centre.

The products panel, chaired by Kenneth Grange, who sculpted the Kenwood Chef mixer, chose a digital camera with an instant printer, a wind-up radio for use in the Third World, a hardwood wheelchair for mine-damaged Cambodians, the recycling can-crusher and the elegant nose of the Eurostar train.

The architecture panel, headed by Sir Michael Hop-

ings, chose a community boathouse in the Waterports Centre, Liverpool, the Techniquest Science Discovery Centre in Cardiff, the Citizens Advice Bureau in Chessington, Surrey, a glass pavilion foyer to an 18th-century house in Dudley, West Midlands, and Richard Rogers' £39 million central London Channel 4 building.

Mary Lewis, creative director of the design partnership Lewis-Moberly, chaired the graphics panel. Its shortlist included the Disney Channel's playful Mickey Mouse

logo, the South Eastern Trains poster campaign, the graphics for the Association for the Prevention of Addiction, a set of vinyl-covered dance music CDs promoting a nightclub chain, and the cardboard fast food box.

The winners will be announced on July 8. Each programme will give a plug to the car-makers, Audi, which is sponsoring the mobile exhibition and a static one at the Kelvingrove art gallery and museum, Glasgow, from July 2. This is not considered advertising, said a BBC spokesman.

SAILING HOLIDAYS FROM £118 PER PERSON*

That's all it costs to take your family on an adventure of a lifetime — a trip to Disneyland Paris.

This special price includes: ♦ Return ferry crossing with your car. ♦ Three nights' accommodation at one of our themed hotels. ♦ Breakfast. ♦ Unlimited entry to the Park for three days.

But remember, this offer is strictly limited. So, to find out more or to book your trip, call us now on 0990 03 03 03 and give your family some memories they'll always treasure.

Disneyland PARIS

THE MAGIC IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK. 0990 03 03 03

0990 03 03 03

MPs to back sleaze curb on 'freebies'

Michael White
Political Editor

MPS ARE to face stringent restrictions on fact-finding visits financed by their hosts, as part of the Commons drive to eradicate allegations of sleaze in the wake of the Nolan report.

After weeks of private wrangling over the distinction between a genuine working trip and a "freebie", a majority of senior MPs on the committee drawing up a new code of conduct are poised to back the toughest option on offer.

The decision by the newly formed standards and privileges committee, itself part of the Nolan reforms, is expected to be taken after the Commons returns on June 4, and will create a huge row when the full code is published, and debated, in late June.

But MPs are expected to bite the bullet, albeit reluctantly. "They don't want the alternative, a statutory code," said one. Some MPs, not all of them Conservatives, are already complaining that the expected rules will make it hard to raise issues "except those about which we know nothing at all" — because of the drive to stop cash for

questions and other forms of directly remunerated advocacy.

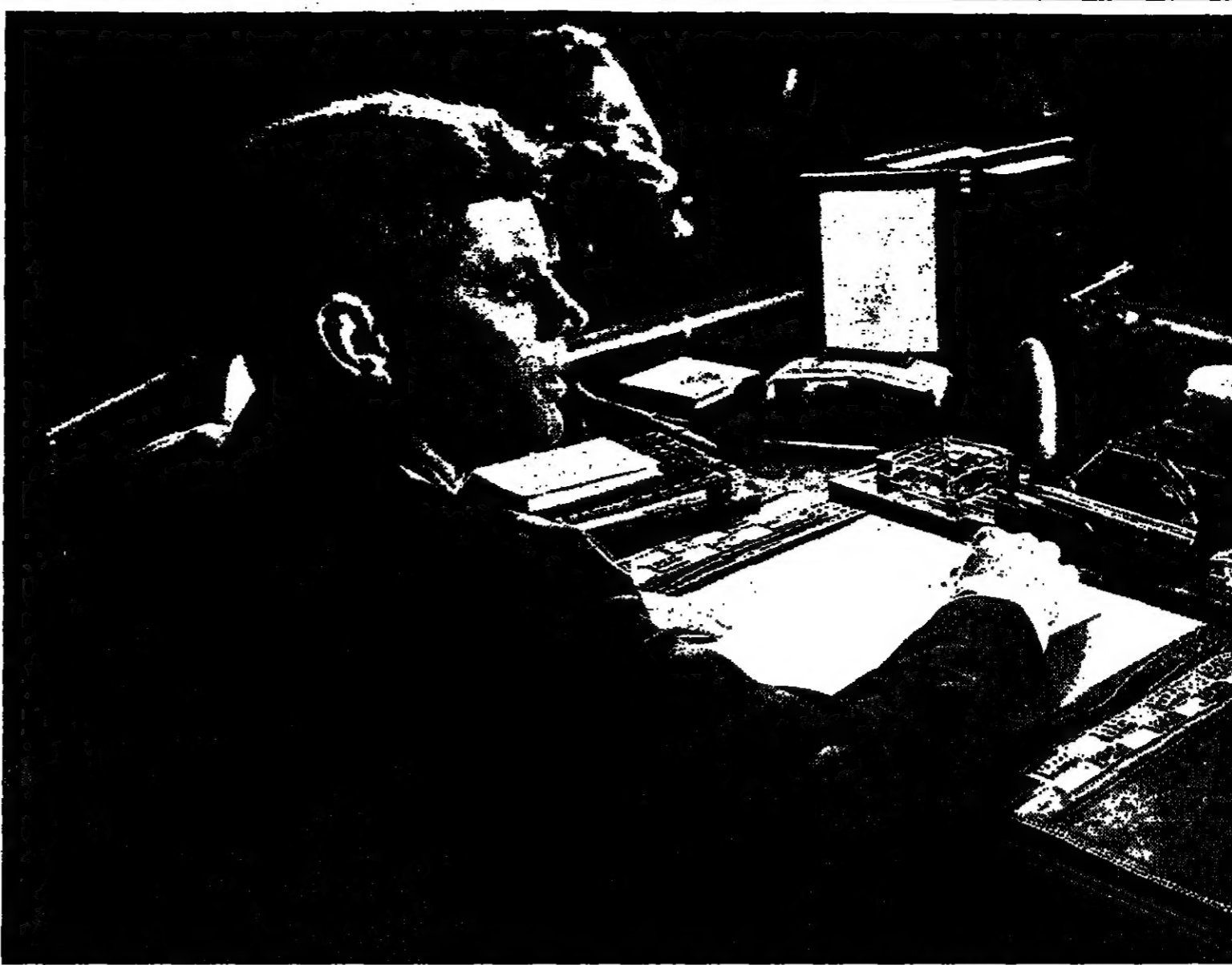
In its crucial section, the code will confirm Lord Nolan's proposal that politicians who accept the hospitality of third parties — industrial firms or foreign governments, for instance — will not be expected to "initiate" parliamentary debates or questions.

Several MPs on the committee, including the Tory, Quentin Davies, and Labour's Dale Campbell-Savours, have argued for looser rules that would not prevent MPs from initiating questions or debates after going on what Mr Davies calls designated fact-finding visits and Mr Campbell-Savours calls "public interest" visits.

Implicit in their formulae is the belief that the need for greater, US-style transparency in such dealings should not restrict the honest efforts of most MPs just because of the need to inhibit the chancers.

Gloomy Tories are predicting the Nolan rules on outside earnings will gradually restrict the Commons to "professional politicians and millionaires".

But the committee's majority is keen to provide more openness after years of sleaze allegations have lowered Parliament's reputation.



Signing of the times... President Kennedy authorising a US arms quarantine against Cuba during the missile crisis of 1962 that threatened nuclear war

Past masters

TELEVISION'S biggest documentaries:

□ **Civilisation:** Kenneth Clark's 1969 BBC2 documentary charted cultural development since the Dark Ages.

□ **America: A 13-part** for BBC2 shown in 1972-73 with Alistair Cooke delivering a personal history of the US.

□ **The World at War:** Narrated by Laurence Olivier and produced by Jeremy Isaacs this 26-part documentary for Thames traced the 1939-45 war from Hitler's rise to Hiroshima. Shown in 1973-74, and repeated on BBC2 in 1994.

□ **Ireland: A Television History:** 13-episode production between BBC2 and Ireland's RTE, produced by Jeremy Isaacs, written and presented by Robert Kee, and shown in 1980-81.

□ **Life on Earth:** David Attenborough's 1979 project, the biggest undertaken by the BBC Natural History Unit, shot in more than 30 countries in three years for BBC1.

□ **People's Century:** BBC1's £10 million 26-part history of the 20th century. First 10 episodes shown last year.

Ministers face row over rising school class sizes

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

FOUR out of 10 primary school children in England are being taught in classes of more than 30, the Government has acknowledged — and the position is expected to worsen.

Next month the Government will publish updated figures on class sizes, and ministers are braced for more criticism. The overall pupil/teacher ratio deteriorated this year, and this will feed through into larger classes.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said the figures were an indictment of government complacency. The Department for Education and Employment said primary class sizes were smaller than in 1978.

Official figures show the number of children in primary classes of more than 30 increased by 7 per cent in the year to January 1995, to 1.5 million — a 24 per cent increase since 1991.

The number in classes of 40 or more has risen even faster, by 27 per cent in the year to January last year, to nearly 18,000. Nearly 400,000 secondary pupils are in classes of more than 30.

Mr Blunkett said Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, should listen to education experts and her chief inspector, who said in November that small classes were of benefit in the early years of primary education.

He added: "How can we raise standards in primary education when every year, more and more children are crammed into classes of more than 30 and even 40?"

TV history takes £10m look at cold war

Andrew Culf on CNN mogul's breakfast brainwave to put a history of politics since 1945 on screens 'in every quarter of the globe'

TED Turner, the maverick American media mogul, was having breakfast in a St Petersburg hotel when he told his staff: "Find Jeremy Isaacs."

Two years on, one of the most ambitious television projects of the century is beginning to take shape.

The general director of the Royal Opera House was initially sceptical as phone calls and faxes from the founder of Cable News Network (CNN) sought to entice him, but eventually he flew to Turner Broadcasting's Atlanta headquarters, where he agreed to make the sequel to his ac-

claimed TV history, *The World at War*. Cold War, a 20-hour, £10 million history of global politics since 1945, is due to be screened on Turner's American network TBS, and BBC2 in Britain, in autumn 1996.

Pat Mitchell, president of Turner Original Productions, said Mr Turner came up with the idea at the 1994 Goodwill Games — an international sporting contest funded by his TV company to foster good relations between Russia and the United States. "Ted wanted this to be told in a very traditional documentary fashion. We hired



Jeremy Isaacs (left), producer of *The World at War*, was asked to make Cold War by US tycoon Ted Turner (right) because, as his executive Pat Mitchell (centre) said: "He wanted the best"

the best: just look at *The World at War*. Jeremy Isaacs pioneered the style.

Mr Isaacs said: "Ted Turner asked me for a series that can be shown in every quarter of the globe. It will not be triumphant or resentful, but seek to do justice to the motives of both sides. We are aiming at a popular narrative TV history, reaching for an audience of millions."

Two years before transmission, the series has already been sold to ARD, the German TV network, and ORT, a Russian channel, with further sales expected.

Early episodes have almost been completed and Mr Isaacs says they include previously

unseen film footage, and will force historians to revise their assessments of key moments in cold war history.

"When we made *The World at War* we had to abandon one programme we planned on Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin; we could not find anyone to talk about Stalin. That barrier has now been lifted, the archives have been opened, and Russian lips unsealed."

Jim Hershberg, on the advisory panel of the Cold War International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, said: "This is about as close as you can get to definitive history. Until five years ago 99 per cent of the history of the cold war

was reliant on western documents. The entire other side came from Pravda and smuggled accounts.

"But from 1990 the trickle turned to a flood of archive material from East Germany — and another side of history is now emerging."

Researchers from Mr Isaacs' production company, Flashback Television, have stumbled across remarkable archive footage. Martin Smith, a member of the production team, was filming in Missouri when a man told him he had some 8mm colour film in his basement. It turned out to be of Churchill before his sombre warning speech in Fulton,

which served as a prelude to the cold war: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the Continent."

Other rare film includes material from Russian archives of the Sputnik space programme, colour pictures of President Kennedy in Berlin in 1963, and Vietnam war footage shot from the North.

Mr Isaacs said Cold War overturned many conventional interpretations. "The second North Vietnamese naval attack of August 4, 1964, never occurred. I was producer of *This Week on Thames* and two days later all we had was a State Department briefing, so we broadcast it. I look forward to getting that record straight."

In 1960 President Kennedy campaigned alleging that the US was behind in the arms race — the so-called missile gap. But a year later satellite pictures showed it was ahead.

"When I made *The World at War* a historian dismissed it as being of no interest to students, but it is still being used as a teaching tool around the world. Mr Isaacs hopes Cold War will have a similar relevance. "The series spans the crises and lulls of 46 years, and it will help us to make the connections and find a pattern in our lives."

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover — at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Surname _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____
Date of birth of the oldest person requiring cover _____
Cover required: Single Married Family Single parent family
If you already have private medical insurance please state removal date _____
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SX 3642 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5TG. M02 080 NG

Prison officers' work-to-rule

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

PRISON officers yesterday began a national work-to-rule in protest at budget cuts which will lead to the loss of 2,800 jobs at a time of record inmate numbers.

The action, called by the Prison Officers' Association, is intended to secure a pledge that there will be no compulsory redundancies, and show union strength before an impending pay review.

The prison service said yesterday that governors were monitoring the impact of the work-to-rule. Any escalation in the dispute could lead to a High Court challenge by the Government, which outlawed industrial action by the association in the 1984 Criminal Justice Act.

The association is seeking an assurance that there will be no sackings as a result of the 13.5 per cent cut in the prison service budget over the next three years. But more than 3,600 of the 41,000 staff are believed to have made inquiries about voluntary redundancy. So far gov-

ernors have only identified 1,300 posts they believe could be lost without jeopardising security.

The association's general secretary, David Evans, said: "There won't be any danger to the public from our action. I think most of the danger to the public comes from a government wanting to impose a budget cut and get rid of 3,000 of our most experienced men and women from the service. We believe that this is a high-risk strategy which could prove disastrous to the prison service so we are going to withdraw our goodwill."

The decision stemmed from a vote at the association's annual conference in Portsmouth last week. Prison officers are refusing to clock-in before official starting times, leading to delays at the beginning of the day, and refusing to work additional voluntary hours. The impact is expected to grow as the week goes on.

Mr Evans said ministers had taken the goodwill of prison officers for granted for too long and he hoped that after a couple of days the union would be able to provide a clear assessment of the action's impact.

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

At only **13.8% APR**

look at what our lowest rate ever could do for you.

Loan Amount	APR
£1,000	13.8%
£2,000	13.8%
£3,000	13.8%
£4,000	13.8%
£5,000	13.8%
£6,000	13.8%
£7,000	13.8%
£8,000	13.8%
£9,000	13.8%
£10,000	13.8%

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc and take advantage of our attractive fixed rates:

13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.
15.9% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999.

HAMILTON
Direct Bank
A division of HFC Bank plc
We have the money to hand.

"Our Father which art in the Long Room, Godders be Thy name/ Thy decision is final, at Lord's, as it is at Sabina Park./ Give us this day a zonking great sachertorte"
Sebastian Faulkes

G2 page

Guardian Tuesday May 28 1996

n food

HOLIDAYS PER PERSON

DEYLAND PARIS

13 03 03



The funeral procession on its way to church in Ushant, as depicted by the Illustrated London News. Many of the dead were washed ashore naked; the islanders dressed and buried them in their own ceremonial costumes kept for solemn rituals

French islanders mourn British long lost at sea

243 people died in the sinking of the Drummond Castle. But plans by Breton villagers to mark the centenary have been ignored by the Queen, Paul Webster in Paris reports

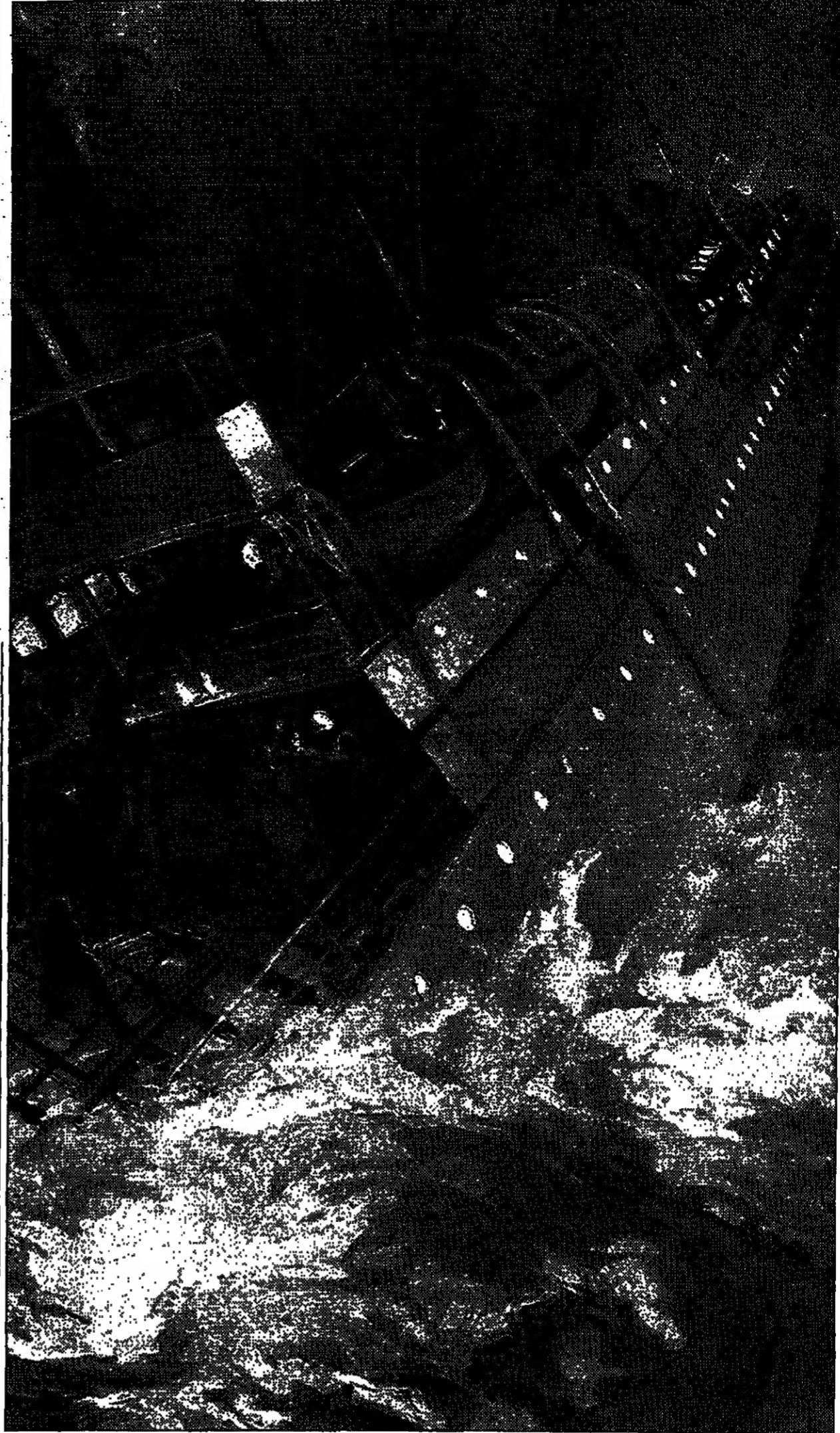


SEVERAL hours after the liner Drummond Castle sank on June 17, 1896, having been holed off the Isle of Ushant, a Breton fisherman recovered the body of a three-year-old English girl named Alice Reid.

will recall the terrible work of pulling scores of bodies from the sea and the emotional response of the British public to sacrifices made by one of France's poorest communities. But Ushant's mayor, Denis Palluel, has not had a response to appeals for British representatives and descendants of the victims' families to attend the ceremony and visit two exhibitions devoted to the 3,700-ton Glasgow-built liner, which sank on the last night of her 18-day run from Cape Town to London.

write the Queen, but Buckingham Palace is one of the institutions which has not replied to our invitation. In 1896, hundreds of newspaper articles in France and Britain were devoted to the disaster and the reaction of the local islanders, who received letters and medals from Queen Victoria. She was moved by the care given to the scores of bodies which floated to the Atlantic islands, two hours sailing from the Breton mainland. Many dead were washed ashore naked or in pyjamas. The islanders dressed them in their own ceremonial costumes kept for solemn rituals, while hundreds of people attended solemn burials by the parish priest. Donations from the shipping firm and British public subscriptions were used to build a spire for Ushant's church and provide a clock for the church at Molène. The island was also endowed with a reservoir for fresh water that is still its main supply. Many of the exhibits on the sinking have come from the 1,300 islanders who kept photographs of the rescuers, and contemporary accounts and letters from British relatives. Among documents are extracts from the British public inquiry which blamed the captain, Walter Pierce, for navigation errors, failing to take soundings and excessive speed before the ship struck granite rocks known as Les Pierres Vertes. The liner, founded just after 1870 on June 16, barely an hour after passengers and crew had ended an end-of-voyage party. A Castle Line representative who later visited

the spot told the firm's owner, Donald Currie, that he had never seen anywhere as dangerous to navigation as the Ouessant archipelago, where 42 British ships had sunk in the previous 20 years. The two crewmen and one passenger who survived said the ship went down in minutes after being brought to a juddering halt as she travelled at about 12 knots through a misty night. Many passengers drowned in their cabins. But most were on deck, along with the 104 crewmen preparing to launch lifeboats, and were flung into the sea. The only passenger to escape from the Drummond Castle, Charles Marquardt, grabbed a piece of floating wood and spent most of the night and the following morning in the water. He was picked up by a boat rowed by a retired fisherman, Joseph Berthele, who also recovered Alice Reid's body, and later became a hero in the British press as the "grand old man of Ushant". Attempts to trace Mr Marquardt's descendants and those of the two surviving crewmen, Charles Wood, the quartermaster, and William Godbolt, a seaman, have been unsuccessful. They escaped together on a piece of wreckage and were picked up by chance by a Molène fishing boat the following afternoon. They were the first to report the disaster, which meant that the news was not flashed to London by telegraph from Ushant's Creach lighthouse until 3.15pm - 16 hours after the Drummond Castle had disappeared beneath the waves.



The sinking of the Drummond Castle, on June 17, 1896, as depicted by the Illustrated London News from an account by the only surviving passenger. Those on board were celebrating the end of the voyage from Cape Town when the ship hit rocks

Tight control on freed dissident

CHINA yesterday released the only senior official jailed for the 1989 pro-democracy protests and placed him under virtual house arrest in a retreat on the outskirts of Beijing, a family member said. Police had moved Bao Tong, aged 53, into a bungalow in the Western Hills, fearing his public reappearance before the anniversary of the June 4 army crackdown on demonstrators could bring back unwanted memories. "They're holding him ... because of June 4," his daughter, Bao Jian, said. Bao Tong, a former aide to the toppled Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, was released after serving a seven-year term for

"counter-revolutionary incitement" and leaking state secrets. Chinese police each year throw a security net around the capital in the run-up to the June 4 anniversary. "They said that he would be held for eight to 10 more days before he can go home," Bao Jian said by telephone. Chinese authorities have launched a crackdown against Tibetan separatists after bombings in the region doubled in 1995 and gun-related crimes rose by half, the Tibet Daily newspaper said. "We must keep a clear mind to deal with the Dalai Lama's separatist groups' interference and damage," the May 19 edition of the paper quoted Chen Ruiyan, secretary of the Communist Party in Tibet, as saying.

The new 'slave' trade in women

THUMBING through a catalogue called "Asian Encounters" a few years ago, Timothy Blackwell, a shy computer technician, saw his bride. Susana Remerata, a former beauty queen, was attractive, young, educated and ready to leave the Philippines for America. The two were married three days after they met, following a correspondence. But the marriage lasted two weeks and ended one year ago in a courthouse lobby in Seattle where she and two friends were shot by Blackwell at a divorce proceeding. Today,

Blackwell is on trial for his life. He has pleaded not guilty although his lawyers have not contested that he killed his wife and two friends. His case has, however, focused attention on the growing practice of American men who seek mail order brides. Today, there are more than 100 such mail order dating services operating on the Internet. Russian and Filipino women make up the fastest-growing segment. Some women's groups say this practice of peddling potential mates is a form of slavery. Women are brought to the US where the law requires them to stay with their new husband for at least two years before they can gain citizenship.

Sudeten legacy haunts election

ANCIENT animosities and unhealed wartime grievances are haunting the final days of the Czech election campaign after senior politicians in Germany attacked Prague over the post-war expulsions of millions of ethnic Germans. Vaclav Klaus, the Czech prime minister, has responded furiously on Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel, declaring that the Czechs did not need lessons on democracy from the Germans, and that they should watch their words over the wartime years. Relations between the two central European neighbours have been bedevilled since the end of the cold war over the "ethnic cleansing" of 3 million Germans from Czechoslovakia in 1945 and 1946 in revenge for Hitler's occupation from 1938.

Bonn refuses to conclude the kind of agreement it has reached with other countries on compensation for Nazi victims unless Prague apologises unreservedly for the expulsions, during which thousands of Germans were killed. Fearing a rush of property claims, the Czechs are wary. Earlier this year, Bonn questioned the validity of the Allies' 1945 Potsdam Agreement, which endorsed the expulsions, causing the United States to reaffirm the declaration. In Nuremberg at the weekend during the Sudeten Germans' annual Whitson rally, Mr Waigel and Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's prime minister, backed their claims and demanded that Prague hold talks with their leaders. For years, Mr Klaus has refused to deal with the Sudeten lobby, agreeing to talk only with Bonn. Both countries' foreign ministries have been quietly wrangling over the wording of a joint declaration, but the effort

News in brief

Kuchma sacks reforming PM in Ukraine power struggle

PRESIDENT Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine sacked the prime minister, Yevhen Marchuk, yesterday, the presidential press office said in a statement. A presidential decree blamed him for Ukraine's growing economic crisis and said his duties would now be those of an MP.

"Premier Yevhen Marchuk did not effectively carry out his duties in running the government," the statement said. "Rather than fulfilling his day-to-day duties, he has most recently been using all his energy to promote his own political image." Mr Marchuk, a shrewd reformer and former security

chief, has built up increasing influence among Ukrainian and foreign leaders and the local media in recent months. Relations between the two have grown increasingly strained. Mr Marchuk complained he did not have enough powers, while Mr Kuchma said he would not tolerate "dissidents".

Sources in the presidential office have said Mr Kuchma saw Mr Marchuk as a potential rival for the presidency. Elections are due in 1999, but could be earlier. Mr Marchuk, in an important speech to parliament last week, asked that Ukraine take a milder approach to economic reforms. — Reuters.

Historic step for colony

The commander of Britain's dwindling garrison in Hong Kong, Maj-Gen Bryan Dutton, crossed the frontier for the first time yesterday to meet Gen Lin Zhenwu, the Chinese general who will succeed him when China takes over the British colony in 400 days. Maj-Gen Dutton was believed to be the first Hong Kong commander to make the trip since China went communist in 1949. — AP.

Kuwaitis see through Indian's cross-dressing disguise

KUWAIT has deported an Indian man arrested for wearing female clothes in a cinema so that he could sit next to his girlfriend without her mother knowing, a Kuwaiti newspaper, Watan, reported yesterday. The man, in his twenties, told the police he dressed like a woman "to sit next to his Indian friend since she

was coming to the cinema escorted by her mother, who did not know about their relationship." The paper added: "Officials sent a report to the interior ministry who ordered the deportation." The man was arrested while removing his female clothes in his car. — Reuters.

Right retains Cyprus helm

THE centre-right emerged victorious yesterday in parliamentary elections in Cyprus, with the communists boosting their position as the second biggest party. Campaigning for the Sunday poll had been dominated by the island's 22-year-old division, but the results were denounced by the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community, Rauf Denktash, as failing to offer any hope of bringing the two communities together. President Glafcos Clerides's Democratic Rally won 34.5 per cent of the vote, maintaining its 20 seats in the 56-member parliament. The communist Akel came second with 33 per cent and 19 seats, one more than previously held. But Mr Clerides's government will still hold a majority. Its coalition partner, the centre-right Democratic Party won 10 seats, one fewer than before. — Reuters.

Opposition fears

The Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said yesterday after a meeting of her National League for Democracy that she was worried about the fate of more than 250 party activists who had been arrested last week, saying that at least two had been charged. — Reuters.

Genocide suspects held

THE international criminal tribunal into Rwanda's 1994 genocide said yesterday the first three accused men were being detained at its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, and would be charged later this week. In a statement, the tribunal registrar, Andronicus Adede, said Georges Anderson Nderubumwe Rutaganda, Jean-Paul Akayesu, and Clement Kayishema had been detained in Zamboni and transferred to Arusha. With only 35 investigators, the hard-pressed tribunal is trying to gather evidence against the ringleaders of the killing of up to 1 million Tutsis and Hutu moderates. More than a year of investigations have led to indictments against 10 suspects, mainly local officials. — Reuters.

Pricey Tokyo

Tokyo retained its reputation as one of the most expensive cities in 1995, as price differences between Tokyo and New York shot up to their highest level in 10 years. Gas, electricity, water and rent were the biggest purse drainers. — Reuters.

Thai 'death plot'

Thailand promised yesterday to investigate allegations that the Thai military was linked to death threats against Gareth Evans, Australia's former foreign minister. The Thai embassy would contact the Australian federal police and the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. — AP.

Einstein is reported to have suddenly stopped dead and seized Marie Curie by the arm, saying with deadly seriousness: "You understand, what I need to know is exactly what happens to the passengers in an elevator when it falls into emptiness." Tim Radford

Protes follow in Alba

A

Three w their plig

WELLY NATURAL

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

سنة من العمل

Protest call follows poll in Albania

Melena Smith in Athens

ALBANIA'S opposition parties called on their supporters to take to the streets today, amid fears that their anger could grow into a violent backlash against Sunday's abortive general election.

As thousands of Albanians celebrated the ruling conservatives' "crushing" victory with fireworks, gunshots and jubilant car rides, leftwingers were mourning the "end of democracy" in the former Stalinist state.

They demanded that the poll be immediately annulled and called on supporters to mass in the capital Tirana today.

Although final results have yet to be released, a euphoric President Sali Berisha said his Democratic Party could clinch as much as 65 per cent of the vote, outdoing its landslide victory four years ago. Before balloting closed on

would rule the outcome invalid," he said. Similar accusations were levelled at the Democrats in the run-up to the election. During the one-month campaign, Dr Berisha faced heavy criticism for his authoritarian manner and strong-arm tactics.

But dismissing the accusations yesterday, the conservatives quickly ruled out a new election. "The opposition's departure was an admission of defeat, a well-deserved defeat. The red front should have given up four years ago," Dr Berisha said.

For Western analysts and diplomats, who had predicted a much closer contest between the two main parties, the scale of the Democrats' victory has spawned fears about Albania's future.

Many said the prospect of the opposition boycotting parliament had triggered concern about the country being run as a one-party state at a time of increasing volatility in the southern Balkans.

In recent weeks, Western capitals have expressed growing anxiety about neighbouring Kosovo where a spate of violent incidents involving ethnic Albanians have fuelled fears of the southern Serbian province becoming the next Balkan flashpoint. "If there is no opposition represented in parliament it will mean that the government will have a free hand in domestic and foreign policy issues," one European Union diplomat said.

Both the United States and the EU have been loud in their support of the Democrats, not least because of the party's market reforms which have turned Albania into Europe's fastest growing economy.

But the reforms have brought hardship, especially in the countryside where 60 per cent of the population lives. Disgruntled Albanians have hankered after the social security nets long promised by the opposition.

It is these people who are expected to take to the streets today when the Socialists demonstrate against the election result in Tirana's Scanderbeg Square.

With passions running high among the people they would have liked to see in power, no one is excluding a return to the violence that has marked Albania's political culture in its latest attempt to discover democracy.

The opposition pullout was an admission of defeat. The red front should have given up years ago



National pride... A man hangs Palestinian flags near a poster of Yasser Arafat at a checkpoint between Gaza and Israel. PHOTOGRAPH AHMED JADALLAN

Arafat's thin-skinned autocracy exposed

Comment

Anthony Lewis

AT 11 o'clock on Sunday night in Gaza, Eyyad Sarraj was released from jail. It was the end of a personal drama with implications for all Palestinians — and for Israel.

Dr Sarraj, a psychiatrist, had been arrested by policemen of the Palestinian Authority on May 18. Officials said he was being investigated for "slander" in statements quoted in this column in the New York Times. He said that the authority was "dictatorial" and "oppressive", making routine arrests and torturing.

The Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, reacted vindictively to Dr Sarraj's criticism, keeping him locked up for more than a week. But above

Attorney-general faces lawsuit

THE PALESTINIAN thuman rights group headed by Eyyad Sarraj said yesterday it will sue the Palestinian attorney-general over Dr Sarraj's arrest for criticism published in the New York Times.

More recently, he has moved to a second role, that of the peacemaker with Israel. In this, he confounded many Israeli sceptics. After a long delay, Mr Arafat did crack down on Hamas terrorists. Last month he steered the Palestine National Council to expunge from the Palestine Liberation Organisation's covenant passages calling for the destruction of the Israeli state.

Now, as president of the Palestinian Authority, Mr Arafat is playing a third role — as the leader of an emerging national polity. There are great doubts about this, because Mr Arafat

Attorney-general faces lawsuit

has not shown the broad-mindedness or democratic character needed. As the Sarraj affair showed, he has focused on building personal power and sending his people the message that disagreement is dangerous.

Mr Arafat has surrounded himself with yes men. His minister of justice, Farah Abu Midtin, a longtime friend of Dr Sarraj, denounced the doctor while he was in prison, saying he had done nothing for the human rights of Palestinians during the occupation — when in

Attorney-general faces lawsuit

fact Dr Sarraj had been a leading force for their rights. It was essential for Israel to negotiate with Mr Arafat and the PLO if it was going to seek a way of securing peace with the Palestinians. That is what the former Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, came to understand in the last years of his life — and what made the Oslo agreement possible.

There is still no alternative for Israel, the United States or anyone else who wants to deal with an authentic Palestinian leadership. Likud politicians who say in the Israeli election

Attorney-general faces lawsuit

campaign that they will not negotiate with Mr Arafat are really saying that they will end the peace process. But it does not follow that outsiders have to close their eyes to the reality of Mr Arafat's thin-skinned autocracy.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza do not want occupation replaced by a tyranny of their own. They are familiar with the idea of democracy, and want it for themselves. They showed that in protests over Dr Sarraj's detention — which helped secure his release.

It is not only Palestinians who have an interest in the development of democracy, under Mr Arafat or others. Israelis and Palestinians are destined to live next to each other in a small area. Israelis vote this week in an election that will effectively say yes or no to peace. If they say yes, they will need a stable democratic partner for peace. — New York Times.

Rival closes gap on Peres

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S general election campaign ended last night with Benjamin Netanyahu, the rightwing Likud challenger, apparently closing the gap on Shimon Peres, the Labour prime minister.

Opinion polls have consistently shown Mr Peres narrowly leading Mr Netanyahu. The last two polls suggested victory margins of 2.4 per cent and 5 per cent.

Israeli analysts have pointed out that such a slender lead lies within the margin of error of most surveys, and that the trend of recent weeks has slightly favoured Mr Netanyahu.

A leading member of Israel's Arab community said yesterday that the prime minister's sanctioning of last month's assault on Lebanon could cost him the election.

Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian president, and for a few weeks of the campaign a contender for a seat in the Knesset (parliament), said the Lebanon assault had cost Mr Peres vital support among Arabs, who constitute around 11 per cent of the electorate.

"It looks like Netanyahu will defeat Peres. But I hope my predictions are proven wrong on Wednesday," he said.

During the 16-day bombardment of Lebanon, Arab political leaders urged their supporters to boycott the prime ministerial elections, and take part only in the poll for the Knesset.

Most Arab leaders have since thought better of a tactic which could restore the nationalist Likud to power, and are calling on their followers to back Mr Peres.

Many Arabs fear that a victory for Mr Netanyahu will destroy the Middle East peace process, and the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation self-rule accords in particular. The point has been driven home by Mr Peres, who has denounced his rival's proposals for more Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, and his pledge to send, if necessary, troops back into the PLO-controlled enclaves.

Mr Netanyahu has tempered his opposition to self-rule, but insists that Likud will never tolerate an independent Palestinian state, and will maintain Israel's eastern border on the Jordan river.

Three woeful mothers blame their plight on the villain Yeltsin

James Meek in Pyatigorsk reports on how the Chechen war has backfired in the region where it was supposed to be most popular

THERE was something mythic about the three elderly women sitting on the bench in this north Caucasian spa town, recounting the fates of their children. Russia is a country that rewrites its myths and legends like scriptures; these were the three woeful mothers.

Nadezhda Voitova's children had all emigrated. Yevgenia Butenko's son was unemployed. And the only son of Maria, who would not give her last name, was recovering from a serious wound he received fighting in Chechnya. No need to guess who the villain was in this particular tale.

"He came back wounded. Why should I praise this government if they did that to my only son?" said Maria. All three intended to vote for the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov.

It becomes clear in Pyatigorsk, part of Stavropol territory, how the fateful decision to send troops into Chechnya backfired in the very region where it was supposed to be most popular.

Ferocious voter enthusiasm for military action to bring separatist Chechnya to heel was decisive at the Russian security council, on December 7 1994, which agreed to send in the troops. Nationalists calling for firm measures against Dzhokhar Dudayev had just won a string of local elections in the two ethnically Russian territories closest to Chechnya, Stavropol and Krasnodar. One of the arch hawks at the meeting,

the then nationalities minister, Nikolai Yegorov, had been governor of Krasnodar. And according to one newspaper report, the security council was shown a secret poll revealing 80 per cent support for military action in the southern regions.

Assured that the operation would be a pushover, President Boris Yeltsin seemed to be on to a winner. Yet if they really were thirsting for the Russian army to clobber the

Not that Pyatigorsk's senior citizens have any sympathy for the Chechens. Smiling sweetly, they are candidly racist. "They have a special form of life. They're never worked. They're only used to killing and stealing," said Maria.

Further up the long flight of steps which leads from the centre of town past a statue of Lenin to a cluster of sanatoria and a mineral water spring on a hill, Sergei, aged 68, was

supplementing his pension by photographing tourists. He hinted that he had indeed wanted the Chechens punished — but more effectively. "It could have been done in two days, even with death and murder on both sides. The Chechens should have been given two or three days to leave the territory. Those who didn't leave should have been destroyed," he said. He also planned to vote for Mr Zyuganov, but only because of his meagre pension

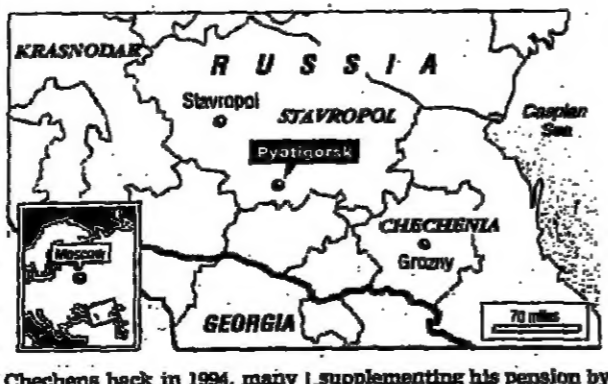
and a personal grudge against Mikhail Gorbachev. In 1971 Sergei was expelled from the regional branch of the Communist Party for selling his car at 500 roubles more than the state price. Mr Gorbachev was regional party boss at the time.

Tatyana, a 36-year-old pharmacist watching her children play around a fountain at the foot of the hill, wanted to seal off Chechnya and let the Chechens live apart.

But she said the war was not the biggest issue in Pyatigorsk. "What influences us is how much poorer people have become, especially the older generation. I've decided to vote for Yeltsin. A change of leadership won't lead to anything good at this point."

Margarita, a teacher of the same age, was sitting next to her. She was angry about the war and her salary. She earns half as much as her friend, about £50 a month. "We are the lowest form of life, us teachers. I'm not going to vote for Yeltsin. In the absence of anyone better, I may well vote for Zyuganov. I don't see how things could get any worse. What I get is only enough for food," she said.

At the entrance to the main park, local officials had hung a red banner that reads: "B.N. Yeltsin — the choice for the new generation." Yelena, an artist aged 24, said: "It's necessary to vote for Yeltsin because five years isn't enough time to do anything." Her friend Alla, a 24-year-old textile designer, disagreed. "I don't know whom I'm going to vote for, but not for Yeltsin. For one thing, there's this war. For another, the man is simply dying."



THEY'RE NATURAL KILLERS

THEY'RE ASSASSIN BUGS

Pay no legal fees if you call Direct Line now.

A cheaper mortgage, no legal fees and 20% off your buildings insurance when you transfer to Direct Line.

- Transferring to Direct Line can save you £50* every month on your mortgage.
- Phone before 29th June and transfer using our solicitors package and we'll pay your legal fees.
- We'll give you a free valuation.
- We also guarantee to save you 20%* if you transfer your buildings cover from your existing lender.
- Mortgages are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is lower.

Call now. We're waiting to do a great deal for you.

lender	APR Monthly Repayment (Other rate)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payments	
MALCOLM	7.2%	£27.95	£247	£147,295
ABNEY NATIONAL	7.4%	£27.99	£21.52	£147,160
WOLFRICH	7.5%	£28.20	£3.22	£147,610
DIRECT LINE	6.4%	£25.49	—	£151,694

*Savings based on Standard Variable Rate Mortgage, interest of 6.5% (see www.directline.co.uk), excluding other charges and legislation which may vary.

0181 649 9099 LONDON 0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER 0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. GA43

DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

ine power struggle

Right retains Cyprus helm

Have suddenly stopped dead by the arm, saying what I understand, what I understand to the passengers falls into emptiness.

The voice of courage

It is time to confront Burma's military bullies

THE SLORC is confused, and like all insecure regimes it is becoming both weaker and more dangerous. Last week the ruling military junta in Burma (Myanmar), which bears the Orwellian title of State Law and Order Council, arrested more than 250 members of the National League for Democracy. It did so to prevent the NLD members from holding an entirely peaceful party meeting. This went ahead anyway, with a huge crowd of undeterred supporters cheering the NLD's leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "Giving in to bullying," she told them, "is not good for... the bully or those who are bullied." The official press has denounced Ms Suu Kyi as a "poisonous snake" and a "sorceress." Then yesterday one tame newspaper published a commentary addressing her in more respectful terms, and claiming that the regime supported the "democratic principle" of freedom of association. It also returned to the theme of dialogue between the SLORC and the democratic forces. The NLD, we should note, though described as being "in opposition", must by virtue of the 1990 election which it won overwhelmingly be regarded as Burma's rightful government.

The junta has played word-games several times before, but the effect of international pressure and adverse publicity upon it now should not be underestimated. Ms Suu Kyi herself deserves most of the credit for refusing to be exiled from her native country she sat out the generals under house arrest until they sought to regain credibility by releasing her. Since then she has gradually found her voice while avoiding any over-provocative move. Her strength, and that of the democracy movement, lies in the simplicity of its demands. These are set out very clearly in a recent interview with John Pilger — whose own work on Burma, with David Munro, has refocused our atten-

tion on the horrors of the SLORC. "We want a system that will guarantee our rights so that we can live in security," she says, "so that we do not have to wonder from day to day what will happen to us if we do something that will annoy those in power." It should not be too much to ask.

It is not always easy to decide just how far to intervene in another country's internal politics. But the case of Burma/Myanmar — like that of South Africa under apartheid — is overwhelming. The only question to be asked is what can be done most effectively. Western governments greeted Ms Suu Kyi's release from house arrest as a signal for relaxing pressure and encouraging trade contacts: this, as the junta's behaviour shows, sends exactly the wrong message. The regime in Rangoon should be told that it faces international isolation and sanctions, and that its first step must be to release the detained NLD members. Whether or not some of these have been sent to the Insein prison camp, conditions there for hundreds of political prisoners, as reported by Amnesty International, are also a matter for serious concern.

Whatever governments choose to do, individuals can all make their own decisions. No reputable travel agent or tour operator should allow travel to Burma to remain in its brochure and the independent tourist should stay away. No business firm should fall for the absurd and callous proposition of a recent British trade conference that Burma will become "the next Asian tiger." With railways and construction projects being built by forced labour, it neither deserves to, nor does it possess the necessary popular dynamism. Nor is it a safe bet either (as Ms Suu Kyi shrewdly argues) so long as the brutal, but baffled, generals remain in charge. * *New Internationalist*, June 1996, PO Box 79, Hertford, SG14 1AQ.

Just one volunteer needed

A chance to do the right thing and earn the nation's gratitude

SIR JULIAN CRITCHLEY, whom the Gods preserve, says he does not want to be the man who brought down the Conservative government. Sir George Gardiner, a man whose politics are as far from Sir Julian's as any Conservative's can be, threatens (unconvincingly) that if he is deselected the task might just fall to him. The unknights and demob-happy George Walden asks himself and the watching nation at some length, what he (and other pro-European MPs) are doing in the Conservative Party. When the majority is down to one, every MP makes the difference between the government's life and death. Is it not therefore about time that one of them took the plunge?

In his richly entertaining book *A Bag of Boiled Sweets*, Sir Julian tells with some pride the story of his presidential role in the fall of Lady Thatcher. In 1989, Sir Julian wrote an article suggesting that Lady T's time had come, and that she should step down gracefully, laden with honours, on the tenth anniversary of her accession. At the time Sir Julian was denounced by the Sun, upbraided by his constituents and tut-tutted by his colleagues. But it was a courageous thing to have done, and of course Sir Julian was right (as both Lord Whitelaw and Sir Norman Fowler have subsequently conceded). When it came to courage, however, it was nothing compared with the action of Sir Anthony Meyer in actually challenging her, a deed for which Sir Anthony, an otherwise unknown and insignificant

MP, won the nation's thanks and his own small place in the history books.

Politicians are not in general given to the self-sacrificial gesture. Sacrifice, in their world, is for suckers. The politician who is prepared to commit suicide for a higher cause is rare. Alan Howarth remains unique in political history in crossing the floor from Tory to Labour, and even he made his move in sufficient time to ensure he could find a Labour nomination before next polling day. Sir Anthony Meyer was a genuine exception, and nothing became him in his political life better than the leaving of it.

A record number of Conservative MPs have now announced their retirements at the coming election. These men and women keep the Government alive, preserving it from the loving hands of David Trimble and Ian Paisley but failing to prevent the Eurosceptic tail from wagging the Conservative dog. Few of these retiring MPs now owe the Government anything. Is there not, therefore, one among them who now feels that things have gone far enough? That the sell-outs to English nationalism have got to be stopped? That the death of the Government would be better than its continuance at the price now being extracted by the nationalist Right? Any volunteers? Sir Julian? Mr Walden? We pause for a reply. A permanent footnote in the history of our times beckons, along with a nation's gratitude, plus the sure knowledge that you did the right thing.

Professor, it's a quiet dinosaur!

But is this really the way it ended 65 million years ago?

THE NEWS that dinosaurs may not have roared, but merely emitted a low-frequency sort of whimper, is going to put the sound effects departments of future horror films out of business. It is only the latest in a long succession of dinosaur tales which shows how little we still know about them. Even those familiar reconstructions in the Natural History Museum are probably quite wrong. Evolutionary biologists now say that museum restorations are heavily influenced by the space available and the strength of support armature. A high ceiling simply cries out for a dancing dinosaur with good upright posture and a firm metal brace.

It is not so long since we learnt that the ferocious Oviraptor who, as the name indicates, stole other dinosaurs' eggs was actually a lovable mum who cuddled them. But it is the manner in which the dinosaurs became extinct that remains the greatest source of

myth. They are variously supposed to have succumbed to: a tidal wave, an asteroid 10 kilometres long, acid rain, worldwide forest fires, worldwide volcanic discharge, constipation from ingesting new types of vegetation, diarrhoea from the same, or alternatively to have been blinded all at once by an exploding super-nova.

Yesterday's report about the monster that did not roar is based upon serious research into the duck-billed dinosaur or Parasaurolophus which lived in New Mexico. (It does not quite win the prize for dinosaur with the longest name which probably goes to the shark-toothed Carcharodontosaurus Sahariensis). Research on other dinosaurs has produced a similar conclusion that they snuffed through their blocked noses. If true, this might also be added to the list of causes of extinction. The dinosaur, it can now be said, ended its life on earth not with a bang but a whimper.



Letters to the Editor

It's a matter of degree

PAUL FOOT is right to draw attention to anomalies in the first-class degree tables (Official bluster and a load of ballistics, May 20). It has long been obvious to external examiners that in some institutions hard-pressed staff teach to the exam paper and even leak questions. Some modules I have examined have been assessed by single coursework essays and upper seconds have been offered for work based on two chapters from textbooks. Mark reductions generate hostility.

Students are taught from course reader and discouraged from reading around; too often they are not being stretched. My experience is that this is a particular problem in post-1992 universities and in colleges of higher education, where there is a separate culture of external examining with lower expectations. In any case, the system of validating comparative standards by external examiners is falling apart as institutions pay no heed to criticisms and demand turn-around times which do not allow for adequate moderation of work submitted. This is yet another aspect of the hidden crisis in higher education.

John K Walton, History Department, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YG.

Women pensioned off

IN MONEY Guardian (Women face pensions penalty, May 25) women who have breaks in earnings because of domestic or caring responsibilities were warned not to get too excited by reports that the Government is planning to let them continue their personal pension contributions (with tax relief) while they are at home full-time, because this might not be true. That is not the main reason for being excited.

Of more importance is the fact that for the majority of women in this position such proposals are irrelevant because neither they (nor their partners) have sufficient income to make such contributions. For example, even while they are in paid work, half of all mothers earn too little to pay tax and national insurance contributions, let alone paying into a private pension scheme. Moreover, they are more likely than in the past to have a low-paid, or unemployed, partner.

Conversely, the partners of high-earning men are more likely to be high earners themselves and less likely to

have long periods as full-time wives and mother at home. However they are still a minority. In the UK, the typical mother's life-time earnings are only half those of her childless sister.

Twenty years ago, Barbara Castle recognised that as long as women's earning patterns were different from men's — because of their extensive involvement in caring for children and other adults — their pensions should be guaranteed by the state. (Beveridge, building on the 1925 pensions legislation, had already done this for married women, using their husband's contribution to pay for a pension worth 50 per cent of the single person's pension.)

So, whatever the DSS says of the idea, also mentioned in the article, of extending pension rights to "unemployed" married women, it is already happening and is hardly new. The scheme embodied in the 1975 Pension Act credited mothers and other carers with contributions to the same state pension while they were earning below the NI threshold, and by calculating their

earnings-related pension (Serps) in earnings averaged over their best 20 years. Had this scheme been built upon, instead of being undermined, by the Government for the past 16 years, many fewer pensioners would be facing poverty, either today or in the future.

One key test of an adequate pension scheme is how well it meets the needs of women, who are, after all, the majority of pensioners — spending perhaps a quarter of their lifetime on a pension. The private sector in general, and the personal pensions system in particular, fails this test.

Only a state scheme can incorporate the redistribution of resources necessary to end the penalty of poverty facing those who contribute most to caring for past and future generations. The Labour Party, in its current deliberations about pensions policy, would do well to remember this.

(Prof) Hilary Land, Professor of Family Policy and Child Welfare, University of Bristol, 8 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TN.

Cry freedom for a hero

IT IS right that the Labour Party NEC should have rejected the parliamentary candidature of John Lloyd, someone who seems to have been less than transparent about his involvement with the fate of anti-apartheid activists in South Africa (Rebels told to toe line, May 23). However, it is not time for the party to address the gross maltreatment of David Kitson, a British hero and victim, if ever there was one?

One of the longest serving prisoners of apartheid South Africa, he served 20 years in their jails, returning to London in 1984. He began a lectureship at Ruskin College, Oxford, arranged and funded by the technical and skilled staffs' association, Tass.

But South African agents inside the ANC in Britain had been at work even before his release. Through a process of obscure political treachery they instigated the suspension from the ANC of both David and Norma Kitson, blackened their name throughout the ANC, the British Anti-Apartheid Movement and his union. As a result, the union withdrew his funding.

Deprived of his job and his chance of a pension, the Kitsons moved to Zimbabwe. Since then, their suspension from the ANC has been withdrawn, and David has been embraced by Nelson Mandela and dubbed a "staunch of the ANC". He has been made Ruskin College's first emeritus scholar, but the union's successor, MSF, continues to refuse to honour their promise to help him build a new life.

What a disgrace to the union and the British labour movement that a distinguished hero should have to exist in obscurity. Has the Labour Party nothing to say? Henry and Mary Barnett, 2 Southern Road, London N2 9LE.



A suitable case for Mr Branson

I WAS interested to read that Richard Branson and his consortium plan to reduce Eurostar return fares to Paris and Brussels substantially. Forget the booze cruise, May 20 and state that their deals are "spectacular and there is tremendous potential for growth." I only hope that other aspects of the service improve.

Having returned from Paris last night and wishing to spend the day in London before catching a sleeper to Penzance, I decided to place my luggage in their 24-hour luggage lockers. Of course, when

I returned at 11.30pm everything was locked. The luggage had to be left and the following day my daughter had to extricate it for me and sent it on by British Rail Red Star at a cost of £28.

Eurostar's customer relations assistant is totally unhelpful and has refused any form of recompense. Her last letter says: "Nevertheless, I hope we can welcome you on board Eurostar in the near future." In her dreams! Peter Gylender, The Writs, Lyn Terrace, Newlyn, Penzance TR18 5EL.

Write on

FRANK Keating's article (No happy medium for ghost writers, May 24) missed one essential point. Isn't it time to eliminate ghost writers in the publication of books, to whom acknowledgement is not always given by the "author"? If the professional sportsman is literate, he has the potential to write a book or a newspaper article; if not, he may articulate his views in a wide range of other media channels.

N L Robinson, 8 St Marys Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AZ.

I AM disappointed that Ode to Joy was chosen for the football championships (An ode response, Leader, May 27), not for linguistic reasons but because more appropriate music could have been chosen. My proposal is Beethoven's Feast, not only because this is equally stirring music, but because it contains a well-known central message which some football supporters might take to heart.

Of course the pedigree of William Walton is impeccable since he was born in Oldham, the centre of Britain. Roll over, Beethoven! Roy S Lehrle, 36 Presthope Road, Birmingham B29 4NL.

TODAY is Amnesty International Forget-me-not Day and marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of Amnesty. Yet in spite of its fine work in campaigning for prisoners of conscience, the organisation is banned from broadcasting on radio or television. The reason given is that Amnesty is the base in the UK of a "political party" which the High Court is to "police". Political parties are allowed to broadcast on television, and rightly so, so why can the same facility not be afforded to an organisation whose aims are entirely compassionate? Paul O'Hanlon, 215 Plantation Close, Castlefields, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2LW.

Lessons of the Liverpool nightmare

WHAT I was looking for in Peter Preston's article on Liverpool (When the planners came to town, May 17) was some mention of the causes of such a gigantic failure in social engineering. What we got was a mere catalogue of well-known failures.

Liverpool remains a city of largely unskilled and semi-skilled labour. One of the reasons is that the compulsory education provided by the state has consistently failed to heighten awareness among its recipients. Consequently, the city's crime rate among its school-leavers is among the highest almost anywhere.

To invest in roads and tunnels ahead of education and suitable youth programmes is to put the cart before the horse. The task of providing an infrastructure of highways, tunnels and hotels for largely private businesses and enterprises should have been left to themselves if they were genuinely interested in the future of this city.

One has only to look at the tiger economies in the Far East, where investment in high levels of compulsory education is well ahead of those in infrastructures of highways, tunnels and hotels. Training is also an essential part of their programme shared by the state and enterprises. But the city planners and its

architects do need to address themselves to a few pertinent questions.

Why were the lots of pre-war slum dwellers not significantly improved even after they had to live through the hell of being blitzed?

Can any city be justifiably proud of its architectural heritage if it chooses to build several highways through its heart and remove lively communities to newly-built towns with hardly any comparable amenities?

How is one to feel confident about the future of a city if its police chief appeals, as he did, to the underworld for the safety of its force?

The depopulation of Liverpool could not have been better planned.

Blair Gosh, School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Physics, Liverpool John Moores University, Byron Street, Liverpool L3 3AF.

PETER Preston asks what does Liverpool tell us about ourselves? He gives the answer in his own piece — Detroit. Built cities round cars and roads and the life goes out of them. The people and the jobs will have already gone. Don Mathew, 38 Reeve Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 1UF.

PETER Preston makes important points about why the dream failed. There was too much shabby, cost-cutting, monster roads trawling the city, speeding people and jobs out. Local government was reviled and diminished while planning became anathema. Even the Guardian dispensed with its planning correspondent.

Our big cities and the people who live there deserve more than a *fin de siècle* sense of weary bemusement and detachment. They have been ill-served by the years of rampant individualism. Cities are a collective experience and a collective responsibility. That is why they need planning and vision.

But the planning profession learnt hard lessons from the urban of its 1960s. It has put them into practice, so that there are clear signs of revival in many of our big cities. Town planning today is providing a practical vision for our big cities, as places that must provide quality living places for a much more diverse population than we knew in the 1960s.

(Prof) Cliff Hague, President, The Royal Town Planning Institute, 26 Portland Place, London W1N 4BE.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: Since mid-April the blackthorns in the hedgerows along the lanes, and across the fields around the village, have provided a splendid display of densely-packed, small, pure white flowers, contrasting sharply with dark stems and twigs. As the blossom usually appears at the time when our weather can be dominated by bitter east winds, a cold spring such as that experienced this year is known in some parts as a "blackthorn winter." Now the petals are fading fast as the fresh, dull-green leaves emerge and, if the early flying bees have been industrious, we can look forward to an autumn harvest of small blackish plums, with a bluish bloom — the sloes. The blackthorns' seasonal successor amongst the flowering shrubs is the hawthorn or May tree, that ancient symbol of the change in season from spring to summer, and the centrepiece of many of our ancestor's May Day celebrations. Before 1762 the hawthorn was

already in full bloom on most May Days, but in that year the new-style calendar was adopted and May Day now comes 11 days earlier — in fact at its best during June in most years. There is no early blossom this year and, although the "bread and cheese" leaves are in abundant supply, the tight buds are still reluctant to burst into bloom. In the valley, the woodland has finally turned into spring with bluebells, wood anemones and ranunculus in full flower. In some of the open, grassy spaces the stars of greater stichwort have suddenly appeared, one of the prettiest sights amongst the May plants, being a mass of grass-like stems and leaves topped by gleaming white, clear-cut flowers. But its stems are both weak, needing support from surrounding vegetation to reach any height, and brittle, snapping easily where the leaves are attached.

J M THOMPSON

John 20 1520

Judge Bernard Gillis

The lost art of justice

TODAY'S criminal barristers recall the Old Bailey circa 1970 as a kind of Jurassic Park, where judicial dinosaurs roamed with noisy severity. One rare oasis of moderation and mercy was the court of Judge Bernard Gillis QC, who has died aged 90.

"Bernie" Gillis was the son of a north London rabbi. He was called to the Bar in 1957, and displayed a more than careerist interest in the law by attempting to explain it on BBC radio programmes and to change it for the better by standing (unsuccessfully) as a Labour candidate in three general elections. He emerged as a squadron leader from wartime service in the RAF, and resumed practice as a criminal defender, with particular expertise in fraud cases. He was appointed an Old Bailey judge in 1964, and retired in 1980.

As a defence silk he became famous for his mastery of the art of pleading in mitigation of sentence. This art is now lost, partly as a reaction to over-the-top ("It was one moment of madness") advocacy, and partly because of the pressures on Crown Court judges to hand down "tariff" sentences. In the days before home secretaries expected judges to dispense slot machine sentencing, the carefully crafted, controlled passion of a Gillis mitigation could make a real difference.

He was not an innovator, not a radical, but he was as fair as they came in those days

As a defence silk he became famous for his mastery of the art of pleading in mitigation of sentence. This art is now lost, partly as a reaction to over-the-top ("It was one moment of madness") advocacy, and partly because of the pressures on Crown Court judges to hand down "tariff" sentences. In the days before home secretaries expected judges to dispense slot machine sentencing, the carefully crafted, controlled passion of a Gillis mitigation could make a real difference.

Contrary to public expectations, he declined to jail John Bloom, the washing machine magnate, preferring to fine him heavily in return for his plea of guilty and avoidance of the public expense of a year-long trial. Although there is something to be said for this approach (compare the Maxwell proceedings), the mistake was to do the "plea bargain" behind closed doors so that the sense of it was not understood. There was a feeling that a wealthy man had bought his way out of a prison sentence.

Unlike some of his judicial contemporaries, Gillis had an excellent grasp of the criminal law. He was not an innovator and certainly not a radical, but he was as fair as they came in those days. He played a very straight bat when presiding over the trial of Peter Hain, privately prosecuted (funded by donations from apartheid devotees) for conspiracy to disrupt the 1969 South African cricket tour. It was Gillis who sympathetically sentenced Oz editor Richard Neville to a £25 fine for possessing cannabis, after Judge Argyle had ordered that Neville be psychiatrically examined, jailed and then deported. Ironically, it was Argyle, burnt in effigy outside the Old Bailey after the Oz trial in 1970, whose letter congratulating Michael Howard on heavy sentences appeared in the Times on the same day as Gillis's obituary.

In 1976, Judge Gillis struck a major blow against police corruption. The men, Rafi Amer and William Lucas, had been caught red-handed delivering a large quantity of cannabis to undercover police officers at the Kensington Hill. They argued that they had been encouraged to commit a crime they would never have contemplated but for incitement from a notorious "agent provocateur", Cornelius Buckley. Gillis, unlike most other judges of the era, decided that the law permitted him to try this allegation, whereupon David May, of the Sunday Times Insight team, tracked down Cornelius (nicknamed appropriately "Con") and persuaded him to give evidence. In the witness box he told an extraordinary story of his work setting up drug busts in Notting Hill, which he was then "licensed" to sell, so long as his profits went to the police.



Judge Bernard Gillis: master of the mitigation plea

30 other defendants awaiting trial after similar busts. The Gillis approach, of "agent provocateur" in due course, proved by judges in the E. of Lords, who preferred to their entrapped victims in prison and the police officers dealt with through often

factual internal discipline procedures. Senior appellate judges do rarely have an instinct for justice based on practice of the criminal law. Bernard Gillis could and should have been one of them, although by remaining a judge at first instance he was at least able to follow his

favourite injunction from the Old Testament: "Do Justice, Love Mercy, And walk humbly before your God."

Geoffrey Robertson
His Honour Bernard Benjamin Gillis, Judge, born August 10, 1905; died May 5, 1996

Frank Hercules

Catching the hummingbird

IN FEBRUARY, 1977, Frank Hercules's *To Live in Harlem*, an essay on his beloved adopted home, was published in the National Geographic Magazine. Later, it was reissued in the Congressional Record. A year earlier the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples placed copies of his *American Society and The Black Revolution* in black colleges across the United States. The novels and essays of Hercules, who has died aged 85, were recognised in the US — but they are virtually unknown in his native Trinidad.

Hercules's path took him to 1949 New York after living in London from 1934 as a law student. In 1953 he abandoned business for a literary career. Two years later, his first novel, *Where The Hummingbird Flies*, was published. On his arrival in the US, like other West Indians before him, Hercules was shocked by "the monolithic institution of white supremacy" and American racism's brutality and inhumanity. Three decades later, in *American Society and Black Revolution*, he recognised not only an overt and institutionalised racism, but the engrained conscious racist reflex of most whites.

dian mother and a father from San Andres. Olive Walker's artistic commitment had drawn Frank to her; Delora's encouragement was to be crucial to his subsequent literary career.

Where *The Hummingbird Flies*, set in Trinidad, is a novel of ideas about the colonial situation, but lightened by a complimentary comedy. Hercules creates the colonial world of constraints, economic misery, social cruelty and longing for escape, but he also animates an absurd milieu where skin colour, hair texture, ethnic features, business manner, respectability, and sometimes intelligence have to be carefully weighed before an individual can be given a social acceptability rating. The book begins and ends with the indomitable and wonderfully wrought comic character, Mrs James Napoleon Walker, making a guest list.

Hercules's bleak view of racist attitudes in the US informed his second novel, *I Found A Place*, 1967. A tragic story of a marriage between a white woman and a black man, Hercules penetrated into the psyche of his protagonists, finding the virus of race beyond the power of anything but time, education and gradual reconstruction to eliminate.

HIS third novel, *On Leaving Paradise*, turns everything upside down on his native island. Robaid, and often hilariously, it assesses the gross facts of human biology and psychology, repressed by a colonial upbringing and conditioning. Its "unselfish male virgin" narrator, exiled from Trinidadian paradise, bound for England, caught in between, left "my guitar, my dog, my cane fields, my frangipani and immortelle trees, my pout blossoms, four o'clock flowers and sweet-scented ladies of the night..." The clash between the stilted and archaic English that the utterly colonised narrator speaks and his natural voice (as above) provides part of the satire.

Academic honours followed and, at his death, Hercules had completed *Survive At Midnight*, a book about the relationship between Jews and Germans, and left unfinished a novel about the slave trade, *The Portuguese Berries*. He is survived by his wife Delora, his son Eric, and two grandchildren, Abenaa and John Shomari, by his son John.

In *Where The Hummingbird Flies*, Hercules had remembered and named a place, and a people. Fictional character, Felix — his long-gone father — and a dark spreading pitch lake came together in the final departure scene.

"It was farewell — who knew? — forever. He passed beyond the despersing dusk beyond the murk of the lake and away unto the mountains of Trinidad. They were green, he noted, through the haze of his swiftly coursing tears, green and full of hope."

Ken Ramchand
Frank Hercules, writer, born February 12, 1911; died May 6, 1996

Renzo De Felice

Mussolini's complex critic

MANY of today's Italian intellectuals have stirred up heated debates. But few have had their homes petrol-bombed. What made Professor Renzo De Felice, who has died aged 67, such an intensely controversial figure was that he forced Italians to reconsider the most sensitive period of their history: Mussolini's dictatorship. What is more, he was still doing so at a time when Gianfranco Fini's neo-fascists — or "author's fascists" — as they prefer to be called — were re-emerging as a force to be reckoned with in Italian politics.

De Felice's central belief was that Mussolini's dictatorship had been a much more complex — and popular — phenomenon than had been acknowledged. In attempting to prove his conviction, he challenged the very ideological underpinnings of the Italian Republic.

For almost half a century, a rather brittle form of anti-fascism provided a common set of beliefs that enabled Christian Democrats, Republicans, Socialists and Communists to play by a common set of rules. So it was in the interests of all but a tiny minority to insist that Italians had been forced to submit to a hated tyrant with a farcical ideology. It was the political correctness of 1945, and has remained so to this day.

De Felice's achievement was to challenge that cosy assumption. What is striking is how few of his views would be considered scandalous beyond Italy. In his unfinished, eight-volume biography of Mussolini, De Felice argued that

fascism was more than just the sinister, flamboyant invention of an individual. He undermined the gravity of the crisis which afflicted the liberal state after the fall of Cioffi and analysed the social, economic and cultural forces which flowed together in support of fascism. More controversially, he argued that some of its characteristics formed part of the intellectual legacy of the *risorgimento*.

But above all, De Felice was convinced — as many foreign observers of the time were — that Mussolini and fascism enjoyed the consent, if not the support, of the majority of the Italian people. Where perhaps he ventured alone was in implying that this consent continued until the final stages of the war. Last year, he dismissed the resistance as a "minority phenomenon like the Republic of Salò". It was almost certainly that remark which inspired the Molotov cocktails thrown at his house last February.

He had a talent for digging out documents. His fellow-writer, Alessandro Galante Garrone, said he went after them like "a truffle hound". But De Felice also drew criticism for the use he made of these documents. He was repeatedly upbraided for favouring fascist sources over non-fascist ones. And while his biography of the Duce is unquestionably one of the monumental works of 20th century Italian historiography, it is also among the most contradictory. Its author's interpretation of several issues can be seen to vary from volume — and, in some cases, within the same volume. Nevertheless, few of



Renzo De Felice... challenged assumptions

his critics believed he was motivated by anything but a determination to get at the truth. Alessandro Galante Garrone, who was himself a partisan, said last weekend: "They will say of him that he was a crypto-fascist, an admirer of the Duce. Completely wrong." Like many rightwing revisionists, Renzo De Felice had a communist past. Indeed, it was not until 1956 that he left the PCI. By then, he had come under the influence of another Marxist, Delio Cantimori. Cantimori, who had been sympathetic to fascism in the 1930s, had little time for the caricature of Mussolini's dictatorship which many of his fellow leftwing historians were content to accept. He persuaded De Felice, who had been specialising in Italy's Jacobins, to turn his attention to the 20th century. De Felice began his

researches with a study of the Jews under fascism, published in 1961. The first volume of his colossal work on Mussolini came out four years later. The final volume is said to be complete, but was awaiting a last revision when his author died.

Last autumn, De Felice gave a preview of his findings which will ensure that they are widely read when eventually made available. In a book-length interview, published last year as *Il reaso e il nero* (The Red and The Black), he claimed to have discovered that Mussolini secretly corresponded with Churchill towards the end of the war, and that he had been killed — not, as previously believed, by partisans, but by British agents.

John Hooper
Renzo De Felice, historian, born April 8, 1929; died May 25, 1996

Maisie Fitter

Conservation with style

MAISIE FITTER, who has died aged 83, was known both nationally and internationally for work for several voluntary conservation bodies, and at times as editor of *Oryx*, under her direction became one of the most respected journals in the field of conservation.

In Abbey Town, Cumbria, she was the daughter of a local doctor and spent her early life in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. She died in London, and after studying in 1934 began her salaried career on the *Sunshine Chronicle* and the *Strayman*, where she worked with its founder, J W Robt Scott.

In 1963 she became editor of *Oryx*, the journal of the Preservation Society (the *International Journal of Conservation*). Under Maisie's editorship it became one of the most highly respected journals in the field of conservation and international conservation. Maisie introduced values and a sharper insight to the journal, as well as campaigning on imports conservation issues. Finance, she published the first reports on the state of the world's birds. In the other hand, her editorial skills, good humour and spirit were appreciated by all who came to know her. Many overseas contributors were grateful for her editing skills.

Jane Fenton
Maisie Fitter, editor and conservationist, born December 5, 1912; died April 9, 1996

annual congresses. Much of her success with both *Oryx* and *Species* was due to her personal knowledge of the people and issues involved. *Species* greatly helped to underpin the SSC at a time when it was temporarily fashionable in conservation circles to decry the value of species conservation in favour of environmental conservation. She finished not only as one of the commission's Members of Honour, but also as an Officer of the Order of the Golden Ark.

She was also founder-editor of the bulletin of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust, one of the earliest of the wildlife trusts that now cover the whole country. Later, she became an effective chairman of the trust, at a time when women chairmen were still rather unusual.

Maisie's interest in conservation was paralleled by her great enthusiasm for gardening — an interest which developed during her years at Burford, when she and her husband, naturalist Richard Fitter, both on the staff of the Countryman, lived in the old coaching inn in Sheep Street (which still partly serves as the offices of that journal). From the garden there, with its Cotswold-stone walls and medlar, mulberry and walnut trees, they moved to a garden high in the Chilterns — skillfully created by another keen gardener to blend with its woodland surroundings, uniting the wild and the cultivated in the style of Gertrude Jekyll.

Jane Fenton
Maisie Fitter, editor and conservationist, born December 5, 1912; died April 9, 1996

Jackdaw



Letterhead

I WOULD like to invite Zoe Heller (LRB, 7 March) to any other reader to comment on the cultural, political and erotic implications of negative hirsuteness as an expression of masculine identity, in the light of my own experience. I recently and for the first time underwent total cranial denatation. My Mother spontaneously embraced me, thinking she saw a re-emergence of my neonate self. The politically correct felt they had to shun me, for fear of being thought ideologically unsound. My wife thought it was the New Man she had been waiting for, for

the last ten years. But by far the most overwhelming response came from the remaining females of my acquaintance. I had a talent for digging out documents. His fellow-writer, Alessandro Galante Garrone, said he went after them like "a truffle hound". But De Felice also drew criticism for the use he made of these documents. He was repeatedly upbraided for favouring fascist sources over non-fascist ones. And while his biography of the Duce is unquestionably one of the monumental works of 20th century Italian historiography, it is also among the most contradictory. Its author's interpretation of several issues can be seen to vary from volume — and, in some cases, within the same volume. Nevertheless, few of

hard to make the Internet a safer place to work and play. We are dedicated to...
1. Fighting crime on the Internet. In particular criminal activity where there are clear victims and/or at-risk users.
2. Protecting our children from online abuse. By fighting against the trade in child pornography and by working to deter sexual predators online.
3. Supporting and advising online victims of hate mail, harassment, and sexual abuse by referring them to professional assistance.
4. Promoting, preserving, protecting the Internet, protecting the collection of common rules of polite conduct that govern our use of the Internet. We believe in courtesy and respect for others. We support Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who have clearly defined Terms Of Service.
5. Helping preserve Internet freedom of speech by showing global governments that the citizens of the Internet Community are prepared and willing to take both the responsibility and the actions necessary to preserve their online personal safety, and in

particular the online safety of their children. *Online Vigilantes in Computer Underground Digest* (home page: <http://www.soc.nyu.edu/udigest/>) Thanks to Duncan Booth.

The mum run

GUIDE to Health and Exercise Regimen, especially designed for working Mothers of a tired and crabby disposition.
Running: Not to be attempted unless the bus is further away from the bus stop than you are. There are at least six people waiting to get on, or your children (without money) have made it before you. Allow 20 minutes recovery time. If you have not had a heart attack within one hour of this attempt, you are unlikely to have one, and it may even do you good. Try not to wheeze too loudly.
Power walking: The dog has the power; you are the one coming up behind with the chewed-through leash and apologies to picnickers, mothers of small

children, own other irresistible hot and park-keepers.
Weightlifting: To be done daily, ing care to keep both side the body in balance. Here a bag should contain 1g food, the cereal, the 1g up liquid and the 1g, and the other the soybean, the eggs, the applied the six-pack of Guinness running while weight allow 40 minutes recovery and three broken t Aerobics: Stretching the upper body is the best aid to weight. Mount the ladder a step towards the light brake care to (a) pull out the of the ladder to their mum extent; (b) turn off the at the switch. It is no good idea to hang on, flex, nor to attempt to public view.
Deep breathing: Nothing is more beneficial than a thorough circuit of air in the pulmonary, sages, which enhances, lation and reduces stre You should therefore be, deeply whenever you w

otherwise scream, as when (a) the dog has taken the margarine out to the garden again, and buried it; (b) the car refuses to start, when it has done nothing all week but sit outside the house; (c) you receive an outrageous tax demand.
Press-ups: Victorian houses are equipped with sash windows especially to encourage this useful exercise. Press up window.

TABLET
The Tablet... tips for mum

Birthdays

Kamlesh Bahl, chair, Equal Opportunities Commission, 40; Sean French, novelist, 37; Thoru Harald, actress, 80; Rachel Kempson (Lady Redgrave), actress, 85; Sandra Locke, actress and film director, 48; Patrick McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP, 67; Frank Middlemass, actor, 77; Kylie Minogue, pop singer, 28; Lord Renton, former Conservative minister, 64; Helena Shovelton, chair, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 51; Julian Slade, composer, 66; Dr Charles Sammaré Smith, director, National Portrait Gallery, 42.

Michaelangelo; although it's not new, you've got to hand it to this four year old virus for sheer terror. In February 1992, antivirus software manufacturer John McAfee went on national television warning that Michaelangelo was going to strike down five million machines. The US went into a state of panic. Destroys data by writing globebook to your hard disk.
Leprosy: Displays a screen saying "Hello! I'll be back" in huge bloody letters while trying to format the hard disk.
Empire Monkey: Prevents access to hard disk except when virus is active, therefore almost impossible to remove.
ID, identifies computer viruses to be avoided at all costs.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-773436; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.
Emily Sheffield

07/21/2015

Top player loses out in copper market, this page Thursday: Is UK plc cutting the mustard?

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian



Scene and hard... On-cow advertising made its debut in a field by the M42 motorway south of Birmingham yesterday, the idea of farmer Harry Goode. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE HILL

Notebook

Paying for welfare without strings



Mark Milner

LAST week, thousands of Parisian workers took to the streets in protest at planned cuts in government spending, including social provision. German public sector workers are seething about the Bonn government's proposals to slash expenditure. In the UK, recent proposals from both main parties have led to the questioning of each's commitment to the welfare state.

One of the immediate causes of governmental parsimony, particularly in France and Germany, is the pressure to meet the criteria for monetary union laid down in the Maastricht treaty — two of which set targets for the level of annual government deficits (the difference between government spending and revenues) and the overall level of public sector debt.

There is a growing risk that the ideas of monetary union could attract opprobrium as people begin to feel the single currency can only be bought at a cost of higher unemployment and lower public spending. But the root cause of public spending squeezes lies rather deeper than the rules for monetary union. In Europe, as elsewhere, demographic trends will put ever increasing burden on the welfare elements of government spending.

The way in which demography has undermined the assumptions on which structures were originally based is dramatic. Under Beveridge's blueprint for the British welfare state, it was expected that one in 10 of the population would be over 65. Today, almost one in five Europeans is over 65 and the proportion is expected to rise to one in four by the middle of the next century. According to OECD projections, health spending could be 40 per cent higher in 2040 than it was in 1980, while the pensions bill will have soared by a staggering 80 per cent over the same period.

OF COURSE, the picture may not be quite so bleak. The demographic trends may prove overly pessimistic — from the point of view of government finances. Governments may raise taxes to fund the extra spending — though critics would argue that the economic impact of higher taxation would make such a move counterproductive. Benefits could be cut. In the case of state pension costs, for example, that has already been done in some countries by indexing benefits to prices, rather than wages. Raising the retirement age would also help cut costs. But the question will only be as to the severity of the problem, not whether there will be one.

How to tackle the dilemma posed by rising welfare costs is addressed in an innovative paper published today by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI). Its author, Andrew Dobson, is a banker by profession and his professional experience is reflected in both his analysis of the problems of welfare funding and their possible solution on a financially sound, long-term basis.

Mr Dobson's assessment of the current position is damning. "The system, as it stands is rotten and, by its inefficiency, discredits an otherwise worthy idea. It plays into the hands of those who are, for one reason or another, opposed to the idea that society owes the least fortunate a living."

He is critical of vicesealing politicians who have pushed expectations to what he believes are unrealistic levels. He argues that while the benefits of welfare are directly apparent at the point of delivery, though consumers often have too little choice, their true cost is often less clear.

Mr Dobson is also sharply critical of policies which have led to the policy trap where an individual simultaneously loses the difference between government spending and revenues) and the overall level of public sector debt.

There is a growing risk that the ideas of monetary union could attract opprobrium as people begin to feel the single currency can only be bought at a cost of higher unemployment and lower public spending. But the root cause of public spending squeezes lies rather deeper than the rules for monetary union. In Europe, as elsewhere, demographic trends will put ever increasing burden on the welfare elements of government spending.

The way in which demography has undermined the assumptions on which structures were originally based is dramatic. Under Beveridge's blueprint for the British welfare state, it was expected that one in 10 of the population would be over 65. Today, almost one in five Europeans is over 65 and the proportion is expected to rise to one in four by the middle of the next century. According to OECD projections, health spending could be 40 per cent higher in 2040 than it was in 1980, while the pensions bill will have soared by a staggering 80 per cent over the same period.

OF COURSE, the picture may not be quite so bleak. The demographic trends may prove overly pessimistic — from the point of view of government finances. Governments may raise taxes to fund the extra spending — though critics would argue that the economic impact of higher taxation would make such a move counterproductive. Benefits could be cut. In the case of state pension costs, for example, that has already been done in some countries by indexing benefits to prices, rather than wages. Raising the retirement age would also help cut costs. But the question will only be as to the severity of the problem, not whether there will be one.

How to tackle the dilemma posed by rising welfare costs is addressed in an innovative

ScottishPower hardens stance on water bid

Pauline Springett

SCOTTISHPower was last night putting the finishing touches to a £1.3 billion bid for Southern Water which could be launched as early as today.

A team of directors and advisers from ScottishPower were in London yesterday at the offices of the company's financial advisers, Barings. It is understood they held detailed negotiations with Southern Water in the hope of winning the Board's approval. Sources close to ScottishPower said the bid would only be delayed if rival Southern Electric makes a higher offer.

Shares in Southern Water, whose market value was about £1 billion last week, are likely to soar this morning on anticipation of a bid. They closed at 86p last Friday.

Before Southern Electric

emerged as a rival bidder at the weekend, ScottishPower and Southern Water had appeared to be moving inexorably towards an agreed bid.

The Scottish company is understood to have made it clear to Southern Water that it has no intention of being forced into paying over the odds by the emergence of a rival with "less financial firepower".

A spokesperson for Southern Water confirmed that the company had received more than one bid, and added that a further statement would be made this morning. Southern Electric refused to confirm that it was the "mystery" second bidder.

The apparent calm with which Southern Water has greeted the emergence of another interested party may be a signal for other bidders to join the fray, or an indication that it may not be aware of a

takeover battle which pushes up its price.

A link up between the two southern companies would make economic sense. Staff costs could be cut and the new-style utility could make use of a single billing system. However, if the move looks likely to trigger large-scale job cuts, it could run into political opposition.

A merger between Southern Water and ScottishPower is unlikely to face similar problems. The Scottish group would benefit by the addition of a new set of customers from a different part of the country. However, the regional disparity and consequent lack of overlap between the two companies would also mean there would be little scope for cost cuts.

The successful bidder will have to obtain the approval of Ofwat, the water regulator. That would probably involve

offering Southern Water customers a substantial price cut, possibly as much as 20 per cent. Ofwat is also likely to seek an assurance that Southern Water would be swiftly returned to the stock market, albeit with a reduced public shareholding.

Even if the water and electricity regulators are satisfied, any deal would have to be scrutinised by the Office of Fair Trading and could also be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by Trade Secretary Ian Lange.

The emergence of Southern Electric as a bidder for Southern Water has come as a surprise because the electricity company had been considered a takeover target itself. There had been speculation that British Power was planning to revive its bid for the company. The original offer lapsed last autumn after it was referred to the MMC.

Think-tank says monetary union will boost jobs

Sarah Nyle

OPPOSITION to Britain's membership of the single currency today suffered a set-back as a leading think-tank asserted that monetary union would boost employment.

Euroceptics have argued that jobs would be destroyed because the strict Maastricht Treaty criteria for membership would hamper the Government's ability to spend money and set interest rates.

But a paper for the Institute for Public Policy Research said European Monetary Union (EMU) would bring about lower interest rates which would create a healthy environment for job creation.

The IPPR's Dan Cory said: "Some on the left reject EMU because they fear a return to the old-fashioned Keynesianism and policies of devaluation. This paper suggests that even if it were feasible, such a policy is not the best way to tackle unemployment in the longer term."

The authors, Ray Barwell and Nigel Pain, who are members of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, challenged the critics of monetary union who have backtracked to Black Wednesday, in September 1992, when Britain was forced to leave the exchange rate mechanism and the UK authorities lost £3 billion.

The dramatic exit was

partly attributed to the Bundesbank's reaction to German reunification. It pushed up German interest rates, meaning Britain and other European countries had to do the same, prolonging recession and fueling unemployment.

"If, as has been suggested, European unemployment has risen because we have been crucified on the cross of German monetary orthodoxy, perhaps a European central bank would be able to deal with sudden large shocks better than the Bundesbank," said the authors.

They said that if a European central bank had been in charge, then interest rates in the UK would have been lower and output higher.

Monetary union would also benefit Britain because the Maastricht Treaty conditions demand exchange rate stability which should produce lower real interest rates, the authors said.

Government deficits would also have to be tightly controlled and reduced to 3 per cent or less of GDP.

The authors calculated that for every 1 per cent reduction in government deficits across Europe, there would be a 0.5 per cent fall in interest rates. Bringing deficits down to 1 per cent (against a NIESR-estimated 3.7 per cent in the UK for 1996) would permanently reduce unemployment by up to 0.6 per cent.

British firms trailing on environment

Pauline Springett

UK COMPANIES are lagging behind their US and Scandinavian counterparts on environmental reporting, according to a survey published today by the accountants EPAC.

The study of 166 UK companies found a big disparity in the depth, detail and frequency of environmental reporting between different business sectors.

Of the FTSE 100 companies, 77 now include some sort of environmental comment in their annual report and this number appears to be rising steadily.

In industries where environmental issues are highly visible and publicly sensitive, such as oil, gas and chemicals, the practice has become an established one.

Other industries which are waking up to the impact of green issues on their business — such as pharmaceuticals,

printing, paper and packaging — are beginning to include environmental information as a matter of course.

However, the business sector which seemed to display the greatest disparity of attitudes was banking and finance. Of the 17 FTSE 100 financial institutions studied, only two produced a detailed environmental report, while another four mentioned the environment in their annual report.

Environmental issues are

increasingly important for banks, not only in terms of their own operations but because they lend money to are damaged by accusations from environmentalists.

Nevertheless, the survey found a widespread lack of clear policy statements, with only the NatWest group planning to publish an environmental report in 1996 containing the findings of a group environmental audit and action programme.

Carton to rise above gloom

This week
Tony May

THE Carlton Communications media group should have risen above a muted UK television advertising market to show a jump in half-year profits from £118 million to between £134 million and £142 million, according to analysts.

The City will also be looking to see how the group, which owns the Carlton and Central TV franchises, is going to expand. It was linked to M&L until that group merged with United News & Media,

and has been seen as a possible buyer of United's Express newspaper titles.

TUESDAY — Interlease Durantin Worldwide, Smart 2) Contractors, Pines Diagnostics, Pines, Adas Queens Most Houses.

WEDNESDAY — Interlease Durantin Worldwide, Smart 2) Contractors, Pines Diagnostics, Pines, Adas Queens Most Houses.

THURSDAY — Interlease Durantin Worldwide, Smart 2) Contractors, Pines Diagnostics, Pines, Adas Queens Most Houses.

FRIDAY — Pines Diagnostics (UK), Pines Diagnostics (UK), Pines Diagnostics (UK), Pines Diagnostics (UK), Pines Diagnostics (UK).

'Big spenders on way back'...

Sarah Nyle

CONSUMER spending is set to grow strongly over the next three years after a series of false starts which have failed to turn into a proper recovery, retail specialists said in a report published today.

High street spending will be driven by falling unemployment, now standing at 2.18 million, as well as low interest rates and boosts to personal income from tax cuts and cash windfalls such as Tesco, according to the retail consultants Verdict.

"This will lead to a sustained recovery in the housing market, always an absolute prerequisite of an upturn in Britain's consumer economy," the report predicted.

Traders will benefit from 25.3 per cent more consumer spending between now and the year 2000, with sales volumes rising by 13.4 per cent over the same period.

By the year 2000, consumers will be spending £201 billion annually on retail goods.

Despite predicting the best retail trading climate since

the late 1980s, Verdict said it did not expect this recovery to return to the conditions that prevailed then. "This will not be a credit-driven boom," the forecasters said.

While the next three years will see strong growth on the back of pre-election tax cuts, 1999 and 2000 will be less buoyant, the report says.

Massive strides in technology will be a key driving force behind the overall recovery in the sector.

Retailers will be able to use data from in-store computers and loyalty cards to tailor their products and production line more closely to demand.

Verdict also believes the personal market for computers is set to take off, growing in value by 200 per cent and in volume by 300 per cent over the next five years as computers become cheaper and consumers trade up.

Television, video cassette recorders and audio equipment will generate strong growth, the report says.

The predicted improvement in the housing market will boost sales of furnishings and carpets, which will be expected to improve their shares of total retail spending over the next five years, after suffering depressed trading conditions.

Traders in the clothing market, however, face a less rosy future, according to the Verdict report.

Partly due to population changes, sellers of children's wear will be worst off. Sales are set to grow by just 5 per cent in real terms.

... but not yet at Co-op whose profits remain static at £161m

Shirley Hain

LINGERING uncertainty in the retail sector were underlined yesterday when Britain's most comprehensive retailer, the Co-operative Movement, disclosed static profits for a sixth successive year.

The Co-op, whose interests range from food stores to travel, funerals and banking, and includes 4,600 retail outlets, made a surplus of £161 million in 1995 — just £1 million more than the previous year — on a turnover which rose 4 per cent to £7.8 billion.

Turnover was lifted by the first full year inclusion of the Lo-Cost discount food chain which Co-operative

Top player admits losing out in turbulent copper market

Patrick Donohue

ONE of the biggest players in the world copper market, Ashley Levett, who pays himself an annual salary of £15 million, has revealed he lost money by dealing in the metal over the last 12 months.

Mr Levett, who set up Winchester Commodities with partner Charles Vincent, disclosed that he was now concentrating on trading in the foreign exchange market and dealing in grain.

Although Mr Levett has resigned as a director, he still retains a half share in Winchester and continues to trade in the market from Monaco.

His comments on copper will be closely studied by the market because of his reputation as a key commodity player and the turbulence of copper trading in recent months.

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live's Financial World Tonight in an interview to be broadcast tonight, Mr Levett says the secret of his trading was based on balancing "risk and reward. You've got to understand the downside".

Although he admitted that the City is much more conservative in its approach than it was during the 1980s, Mr Levett insisted: "The markets have still got enormous potential. You have only got to look at what the Dow Jones and Standard & Poor's (market indices) are doing. And if you look at grain charts, you can have enormous momentum in those markets. If you catch one you can make a lot of money."

Mr Levett and his partner Mr Vincent, who is nicknamed "Copper Fingers" because of his phenomenal success in playing the metals market, came to prominence earlier this year after disclosing that they were both earning around £15 million a year, making them among Britain's highest paid directors.

Mr Levett, aged 36, is now living in a luxurious penthouse in Monte Carlo, although his wife and children are still based in Hampshire. Besides the financial markets Mr Levett is concentrating on developing Richmond rugby football club, which he recently took over for £2.5 million.

THEY'RE A LETHAL NEW CONCEPT IN...

Vertical text on the left margin, including "H" and "Unity Shared".

les have sh look

the team to start the tour

lands a hat-trick overhelm Paris

Sport in brief

Cycling

Sailing

Chess

American football



Out on his own... Double Trigger strolls home for a seven length victory at Sandown yesterday

Leicester

Table of Leicester horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Leicester horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Leicester horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Leicester horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Leicester horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

RACELINE advertisement with phone number 0930 1684 and a list of racing results.

Redcar

Table of Redcar horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Redcar horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Redcar horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Redcar horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of Redcar horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Treble leaves Pipe two short of 2,000. Chris and Nicky Southern FM Breakfast Show Handicap...

Racing Double Trigger on target for repeat in Gold Cup

DOUBLE TRIGGER was in a class of his own when strolling home by seven lengths in yesterday's Bonusprint Henry II Stakes at Sandown Park and looks bang on form for the second year running. With Moonax a non-runner, after being found to be lame in the morning, the opposition was admirably weakened but Double Trigger could do no more than win and he did it in style from the front. Jason Weaver judged the pace to perfection and only had to shake up Double Trigger on the home turn to burn off Court of Honour and Assessor - useful animals made to look pedestrian by the champion stayer. Most opposition to him at Ascot will probably come from his year younger brother Double Eclipse who will be ridden by Michael Beal in the Gold Cup at Sandown Park tonight, writes Chris Hawkins. "I don't care which wins as long as one of them does," said Mark Johnson, the trainer. Double Eclipse has a bit more speed but Trigger keeps battling. "The way to ride him is from the front and the only way to beat him is to get him under pressure first. Every time this horse races the commentator says they're queuing up behind but they can't get past. I knew as soon as the chasing jockeys drew their whips it was all over." Double Trigger beat Double Eclipse by a neck in a wonderful race for the Goodwood Cup over two miles last season but the extra half mile at Ascot should be in favour of the elder sibling. The surprising aspect of yesterday's race was the opposition in the ring to Double Trigger who looked as if he might start even money favourite at one stage although eventually returned at 5-4, a price which surely made him one of the bets of the season. From stamina to speed and

John Carroll, the winning rider commented: "He was under par at Ascot last season but feels a lot different and a lot stronger now." Carroll completed a 94-1 double when bringing 30-1 chance Blomberg through late to catch Royal Philosopher in the Whitcup. Trainer James Fanshawe has been out of form but may now send his four-year-old to the Royal Hunt Cup. Also Ascot bound is Moonshine Girl who goes for the Queen Mary Stakes after getting up in the final stride to beat Dancing Drop in the EBF Maiden Fillies Stakes. John Gosden is beginning to see some light at the end of a very dark tunnel and saddled Aerieon Jane to win the Bonusprint Fillies Handicap. "It's been a grim spring for us," explained Gosden. "Nearly all my good horses have been injured. Lord of Men, Pompadour and Santillana who looks as if he will be out for the rest of the season." Another Newmarket trainer emerging from a difficult period is Luca Cumani who showed he has lost none of his touch with three-year-olds in big handicaps when sending Migwar to Redcar to capture the Zealand Gold Cup. Cumani watched the race on television at Sandown and was delighted with the riding of Kieran Fallon.

Lucky Di should score gain

Lucky Di (7.50) appears the pick of a decent field for the group three Spillers Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown Park tonight, writes Chris Hawkins. He won doing the proverbial handstands at Kempton last month, recording a fast time in beating subaltern winners Captain Horatius and Florida. Piluski looks the danger. Some smart two-year-olds

Line-up for the Winalot National Stakes and recent Goodwood winner Deadly Duality

Line-up for the Winalot National Stakes and recent Goodwood winner Deadly Duality (2.20), who will kick the give in the ground, is just preferred to Daylight in Dubai. Soft ground was no problem for Rocky Forum (8.50) at Newbury last time when she won over two miles. The trip is shorter tonight but this Deploy filly should still take some beating.

Sandown card tonight with guide to the form

Table of Sandown horse racing results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Hexham National Hunt programme tonight

Table of Hexham National Hunt results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Group One Prix d'Islehand under Frankie Dettori at Longchamp yesterday. Saeed bin Suroor's horse was untroubled by the very soft ground and beat Gunboat Diplomacy by a length and a half with Paul Cole's Montjoy (Richard Quinn) last of the four runners. Blinked first time - LEICESTER: 4.30 Eurobob Boy. REDCAR: 2.45 Ruby Flare; Boost; Peace House; 4.15 Brighton Eye; 4.45 Washington Reef; HEXHAM: 7.05 Just Molly; 8.35 Tall Eyebrow. SANDOWN: 6.50 Clemente; 8.50 Golden Arrow.

Henman falls at the first hurdle, page 12
Rocca triumphs at Wentworth, page 14

Brown century seals England victory, page 15
Beardsley given the cold shoulder, page 14

SportsGuardian

Mike Selvey on the measures open to the TCCB's discipline committee as England's chairman of selectors is called to account

Illingworth on the carpet



Illingworth... 'not tactful'

RAYMOND Illingworth, the chairman of the England selectors, has been summoned to appear before the discipline committee of the Test and County Cricket Board to answer charges concerning the serialisation of extracts from his forthcoming book. The news of the summons was given to him yesterday by the board's chief executive Alan Smith, who drove from Old Trafford to Illingworth's home in Farley.

Illingworth admits that the book is not coming out at a tactful time and could have waited until his retirement from office at the end of the season. But the TCCB indicates that it is the content, not timing, which will be under scrutiny.

Illingworth admits that the book is not coming out at a tactful time and could have waited until his retirement from office at the end of the season. But the TCCB indicates that it is the content, not timing, which will be under scrutiny.

Illingworth admits that the book is not coming out at a tactful time and could have waited until his retirement from office at the end of the season. But the TCCB indicates that it is the content, not timing, which will be under scrutiny.

A clown who still hogs the limelight



Richard Williams

WHAT IS in Terry Venables's head today, as he prepares to name his squad for the tournament on which his reputation as an international manager will rest?

half of a player who, at that point, could not even get a place in the starting line-up of Brentford Reserves. I suppose you could call that an attempt at a fair redistribution of wealth. Or you could call it bribery. And the only thing barmier than Paul Gascoigne is the world in which he lives and moves and has his being.

His thoughts can hardly have been put in better order by England's embarrassing tour of the Far East, arranged less for the FA's immediate financial gain than for the long-term benefit of such figures as Mark McCormack, who advises and profits from both the English and Chinese FAs, and his associate Jarvis Astaire, a director of Wembley plc, the managing agents of the Hong Kong stadium in which the match against Golden Selection was played on Sunday.

Begotten in murky circumstances, the trip provided only a superfluous reaffirmation that the country possesses just one player capable of imposing a distinctive character on the game at this level, no matter how incompetent the opposition.

When the Ajax hierarchy devised its famous TFS formula, insisting that the club's footballers must satisfy all four elements of the acronym, they forgot about Paul Gascoigne. Technique? Probably as much as any player in the entire continent. But intelligence, Personality and Speed? While his colleagues struggled in Hong Kong, Gascoigne could be seen sitting among the substitutes. When the television camera closed in, he swiftly demonstrated that the erstwhile European Capital of Culture has had no more success than the Eternal City in teaching him the basic elements of grown-up behaviour.

At that moment I was reminded that Gascoigne spent several years being advised by a man who, quite recently, asked me if this newspaper would be prepared to offer a fee for an interview with a player. The answer is always no. But on this occasion it was the more remarkable for being solicited on be-

For all his idiotic mugging, Gascoigne is far from being thick. Venables is lucky to have him, fit and ready to embark on what is probably his own last chance to make a proper sort of mark on the international stage. For whichever 22 Venables chooses, there will be reservations about the majority of the players, and the knowledge of Gascoigne's inherent quality will be of some reassurance.

IT WOULD be far more comforting, of course, if there were a player up front able to profit from the promptings of the wayward genius. But what is Venables to do about Alan Shearer's failure to score in an England shirt for 20 months? The temptation must be to talk himself into keeping his nerve, trusting in the player's prolific Premiership record, holding fast to the belief that the dam will burst sooner or later.

I do not see why it should. It is hard to see where Shearer's next goal is coming from. He is a marvellous finisher for Blackburn (the pair of goals that did for Manchester United at Ewood Park a couple of seasons ago, a bullet header and a rocket shot, could not have been bettered as a capsule demonstration of the English centre-forward's art), but international players need an ability to stand on their own feet and there is no evidence that Shearer is capable of finding his own way out of his difficulties.

There must now be a fear that Venables will pick him in the knowledge that if his fortunes do not improve, the coach can hardly be blamed for the failure of such a gifted player to fulfil himself. Which means that the fate of Alan Shearer — neat, sensible, articulate, sponsor-friendly Shearer — is inextricably linked with that of Paul Gascoigne, who is none of those things but perhaps holds all their destinies in his hands.

Sidhu walks out on India

INDIA were stunned yesterday when Navjot Sidhu, who had been expected to open the batting in the Test series against England, announced his immediate retirement from international cricket after filling out with the tour management.

It is believed that Sidhu, a 32-year-old Sikh, is angry about the way he has been handled by the captain Mohammad Azharuddin. Sidhu, who averaged 40.13 from his 36 Tests, was dropped for the final Test, a 2-0 victory for England wrapped up 2-0 yesterday.

PALACE ROCKED AS O'NEILL'S MEN BOOMERANG BACK



Blue heaven... Claridge and Lennon embrace as Leicester's fans put out the flags while Ndah of Palace lies low

First Division play-off final: Crystal Palace 1, Leicester City 2 (aet; 1-1 at 90min)

Claridge clocks in late for City

LEICESTER CITY won football's Golden Boot award when they booked their return to the Premier-

ship at the first attempt by beating Crystal Palace with virtually the last kick of the match. Forty seconds into injury time at the end of the extra half-hour, Steve Claridge, a persevering but workaday forward, swung a hopeful boot, connected with his shin and saw the ball fly past the static Palace goalkeeper Marty. The final whistle blew 11 seconds later.

It was a deserved victory for a side who had fallen behind in the 14th minute and, despite playing the better football, only drew level with a Garry Parker penalty 14 minutes before the end of normal time.

Everyone was preparing for penalties when Claridge's might goal went in. Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager who has now had four managerial successes at Wembley, had just taken off his first-choice goalkeeper Kevin Poole and replaced him with the 6ft 7in Australian Kalae, who it was thought, was a better penalty stopper.

This is the fifth time Leicester have won promotion since they were relegated in 1982, establishing their position as one of the game's foremost yo-yo artists. This was also their fourth play-off final in five

years: they lost the first two, against Blackburn and Swindon, and then beat Derby County in 1984, only to be relegated again last May. It can hardly encourage Leicester that of the eight clubs promoted to the top division via the play-offs since 1988 six have gone straight back down.

Before they worry about that, however, their supporters are entitled to a celebration. Only seven weeks ago there were demonstrations against the club and O'Neill, after the 2-0 defeat by Sheffield United at Filbert Street, O'Neill had to wait eight games for his first league win and Leicester secured a play-off place on the last day of the season with a 1-0 victory over Watford, their seventh win in 10 games.

Palace might count themselves unlucky not to have won automatic promotion before finishing third behind Sunderland and Derby — they were 16th when Dave Bassett took charge — but they were second-best here.

O'Neill, who at Wycombe Wanderers had won the FA Trophy twice and a Third Division play-off, said: "We just about deserved to win it, and that's an understatement. We played brilliantly, but I

didn't fancy penalties. I think I would have committed suicide had we lost."

Claridge, 30, who arrived at the club via Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Weymouth, Aldershot, Cambridge, Luton and Cambridge again, said: "The ball just sat up so I decided to hit it. It went in off my shin, the most important goal of my life. 'Bass' came up to me afterwards and I thought he was going to punch me but he kissed me."

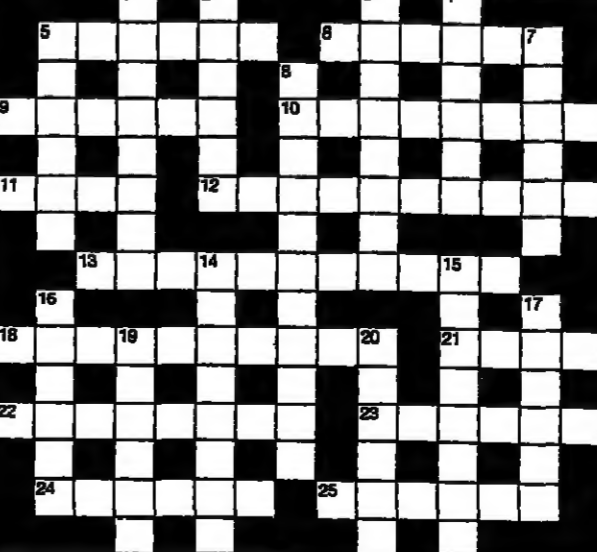
Bassett said: "I must have killed a few robins. This has happened to me three times. We deserved to go to penalties." That was not true.

Leicester dominated the first half without creating many chances. Palace went ahead early on when Roberts, having started the move, drove firmly inside the left post from Houghton's pass. Palace were unlucky not to score again early in the second half and confirm an unjust win, but Leicester equalised when Edworthy was penalised for his challenge on Izzett.

Crystal Palace: Martin; Edworthy, Brown, Roberts, Quinn, Hopkin (Vicar); Owen, Pinner, Houghton, Freedman (Dyer, 26, Ndah, Tuttle (Rodger, 10). Leicester City: Poole (Kilic, 11); Grice, Lemmon, Walsh, Izzett, Lennon, Taylor (Robins, 100), Claridge, Parry (Hessey, 100). Referee: D. Allison (Lancaster).

Guardian Crossword No 20,664

Set by Audreus

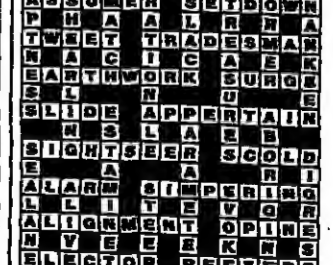


Across

- 5 Deaf or deaf? — that's a hat (6)
- 6 Niche for a man at bay (6)
- 9 Bird hopping on calf (6)
- 10 Fat-head can follow employment without being holy nuisance in the home (5-3)
- 11 King putting weight back on; so is Granny (4)
- 12 When somewhere to write is what we need, distracted cries to anger lead (10)
- 13 Monarch to whom uneasy lies may be attributed (7,4)
- 18 Gathered from our lad's fig tree (7,3)
- 21 Branch member (4)
- 22 Oriental joke about a little instant coffee (8)
- 23 Master with animal is married — to the bottle (6)

Down

- 24 Seal with a pain put into empty chisel (6)
- 25 Striner put companion in need of a stiffener (6)
- 1 Trainer turning rough about the old censor (8)
- 2 Fruit crumble for little George and little Arnold (6)
- 3 The wave needed to achieve prosperity (8)
- 4 Upset mineral and highball at dance (6)
- 5 Make a show home, perhaps, allowing a French income (6)
- 7 Goes in front of Queen to measure point on tracks (6)
- 8 What the fowls eat amounts to very little (7-4)
- 14 Anything H.T. Weaver may have produced (8)
- 15 Note on gold in a passage from Pilgrim's Progress (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,664

- 16 Multifarious of Biblical law? (6)
- 17 One-time President declares himself to be lying in wait (6)
- 18 Key out in the twinkling of an eye (6)
- 20 Last actor to go over the top and far away (6)

Solution tomorrow

STUCK? Then call our solutions line on 020 7 528 228. Calls cost 33p per min, cheap rates 40p per min at other times. Service supplied by AFS

PEST CONTROL

Bill Fitzhugh
The fastest, funniest and most original thriller in years!

As a result of the differences between the rules in America and the UK, the practise of "forum shopping" — by which husbands look around the world for the cheapest divorce deal — is becoming increasingly popular.
Sally Weale

Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page.